



# 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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Council President

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Council VP

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LNO/MC

SAVC e-mail: [support@savc.info](mailto:support@savc.info)

*Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkeison, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC*

**NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- July 18, 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



*We are in the full throws of summer and struggling to stay cool and dry. The summer is a time for being with family and having some fun. During this time, we need to not lose sight of our Veterans who are struggling and homeless. It is also a time for us to double our "Buddy Check" to make sure our buddies are safe in this hot weather.*

*Our SAVC is moving forward and having an impact in our Veteran community. Our grant program is awarding grants to the VSOs and Civic Organizations that are supporting our local Veterans. We are trying to bring vital Veteran information to our members through our active meetings and a great newsletter. We welcome your input on what you would like to hear and how we can improve our support for you and our Veterans. We ask you to support our Veteran Owned Businesses by going to*

<http://www.AlabamaVeteransResourceGuide.com>

and supporting our Veterans. Have a great summer and we will see you at our July meeting."

*Lou Lartigue, President US Army LTC (Ret)  
South Alabama Veterans Council - ([savc.info](http://savc.info))*

## Chaplains Corner:



### **Happy Independence Day!**

*It's our freedom; Read Galatians 5:1*

*"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."*

*Most people think that freedom is free, but freedom comes at such a high price, and Jesus paid that price for all of us. Yet we still had men and women in our armed forces that also paid the price for the freedom of our nation. Now it's our responsibility to stand in the liberty which we have been set free. Stand in our salvation, stand in our deliverance, stand in our repentance, stand in holiness, stand in obedience, and stand in honor.*

*Remember whom the Son has set free, is free indeed. So, as we live our lives (day by day) we should protect our freedom at all cost.*

*In Jesus' Name Amen!*

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,  
Chaplain SAVC*

**The guest Speaker at the SAVC June meeting was Robert Kennedy, Jr. Boys & Girls Club South Alabama, Chief Executive Officer.**

Robert Kennedy, Jr. is a native of Prichard, Alabama who graduated from John S. Shaw High School. He attended the Greater Morning Star Baptist Church.



After graduating with honors, he left home to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. While attending the Naval Academy, Robert served as class president, sang in the gospel choir, and spent two summers volunteering in the Mobile District Office of Congressman H.L. (Sonny) Callahan (R-Al District 1).

Kennedy is a former Naval Officer. Today, Robert serves as Chief Executive Officer for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama and P.O.I.N.T.E. Academy, LLC. In this role, he leads a team of 115 youth development professionals who provide services to over 1,000 children at 9 year-round and 6 summer locations in Mobile and Baldwin Counties (Alabama).

[Home - Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama \(bgcsouthal.org\)](http://bgcsouthal.org)



**Jo Bonner, the University of South Alabama President, has been selected as the Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year for 2023.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 21, 2023**

Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission President Steve Carey and Chairman Mayor Sandy Simpson are pleased to announce that Jo Bonner, the University of South Alabama President, has been selected as our Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year for 2023.

*MOBILE, AL: The Chairman of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, Mayor Sandy Stimpson, is pleased to announce that the President of the University of South Alabama, Jo Bonner has been selected as our Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year for 2023.*

*President Bonner was selected because of his more than forty years of selfless, patriotic service to the United States of America and to the State of Alabama. During this time, he continually supported our military services and our veterans. During his twelve years in Congress, as the Representative of Alabama District 1, his record is filled with his support of bills that benefitted our military veterans. President Bonner was also a staunch supporter of Honor Flight South Alabama, the project that, between 2008 and 2013, took almost a thousand World War II veterans from the South Alabama area to Washington DC, to visit their World War II Memorial. Jo Bonner met every group of veterans at the memorial, spoke to them, and took photos with them. His very presence there showed those national treasures just how important they were and are to our Nation.*

*One part of the criteria for the selection of the Patriot of the Year is:*

*The nominee's contribution to the national interest of the United States upon which the nomination is predicated, should be national or international in scope or level, and of such significance as to achieve lasting impact.*

*President Jo Bonner's record of steadfast, loyal service in several positions of great responsibility eminently qualifies him for the award in accordance with the criteria listed. He joins a long, distinguished list of nationally recognized Patriots of the Year. Among these are Rear Admiral and US Senator Jeremiah Denton, Astronaut and Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, General Jimmy Doolittle, and the Doolittle Raiders, the Tuskegee Airmen, Ambassador and Major General J. Gary Cooper, USMC (Ret.), US Senator Jeff Sessions and Astronaut, Captain Kay Hire, USN (Ret.), just to name a few.*

*We feel that as the President of the University of South Alabama, President Bonner will continue to serve his University, his State, and his Nation in a positive, energetic, and innovative manner and we are certainly pleased to select him as the Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year for 2023.*



## MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Veteran of the Year nominations for the 2023 Veteran of the Year will be accepted by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, from August 1 to August 31, 2023. The deadline for nominations is midnight, August 31, 2023.

### Award Criteria:

1. The purpose of the Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year Award is to recognize a living Mobile Bay Area veteran who has not only served his/her country in an outstanding manner, but has used the leadership skills and abilities learned in the service to our Nation to improve the community through selfless volunteer service to the Mobile Bay Area.
2. Must be a resident of the Mobile Bay Area, which includes Mobile and Baldwin Counties of Alabama.
3. Must be a living veteran of one of the six armed forces of the United States, including Reserve and National Guard, or the United States Merchant Marine.
4. May be awarded for a single act or for continuous service.
5. May not be a previous recipient of the Mobile Bay Veteran of the Year Award.
6. A DD-214 or other proof of service must be submitted with the nomination packet.

The award will be presented at the Honors Luncheon at Fort Whiting National Guard Armory on the Veterans Day commemoration on Friday, November 10, 2023.

The nomination will be valid for three years.

Nominations should be mailed to:

Col. Steve Carey, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission  
P.O. Box 321  
Daphne, AL 36526-0321



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH ALABAMA

**The University of South Alabama  
Athletic Department, the Office of Veterans Affairs, both  
the Army and Air Force ROTC units and the Alumni  
Association, Jaguar Military Veterans Alumni Society**

*I am reaching out as our Military--Veterans Day planning begins for the November 11th, University of South Alabama Jaguars vs. Arkansas State Red Wolves football game.*

*The University of South Alabama Athletic Department, the Office of Veterans Affairs, both the Army and Air Force ROTC units, and the Alumni Association, Jaguar Military Veterans Alumni Society have teamed up again in order to honor and celebrate the South Alabama--Gulf Coast area military and veteran community.*

*Here's the basic plan. On November 11, jointly we will conduct a flag relay from the USS Alabama to the Hancock Whitney Stadium on campus. We will raise a flag on the USS Alabama and raise the same flag again for the National Anthem before the game. Along the way to the stadium, we want to stop at significant military--veteran locations to recognize service and sacrifice. With this effort and during the relay the Athletic Department will have their video production team participating in order to create a presentation that will be shown in the stadium as the flag arrives and is raised. There is also a discussion of several opportunities on campus for Veterans to socialize with University Leaders, Staff, Alumni, and Students before and during the game.*

*Additionally, throughout the game, the Athletic Department will recognize the relay participants as well as a list of Veterans that would like to be recognized or someone that the Veteran community wants to recommend or feels deserving of recognition. Ideally, we are looking for Veterans that span a live timeline of the history of the South Alabama--Gulf Coast communities' patriotism and commitment to defending this country.*

*I know we have a very distinguished Veteran community here in South Alabama and along the Gulf Coast. What I need help with and asking for, are recommendations for those we can honor and celebrate. Ideally, someone from each major conflict beginning with WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism (Iraq, Afghanistan). This is not an exclusive list as I am only identifying these conflicts as benchmarks in time. Additionally, it can be a Veteran who has contributed to the Gulf Coast Veteran community outside of active service. The bottom line is to bring attention to the history of the South Alabama--Gulf Coast Military-Veteran Community and their service.*

*Can you distribute this to the community you are in touch with and ask that feedback--recommendations be relayed to me. My contact information is below. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.*

*More to follow and thank you, Frank.*

Frank Wendling 251-270-9920 (cell)  
[wendingfe@gmail.com](mailto:wendingfe@gmail.com)



The wait is over!

Battleship Memorial Park is pleased to announce that pieces of the original WWII teak deck of the USS ALABAMA are now available. Coins, pens, blocks, planks and more will be available for purchase. Every original piece is slightly different, making the teak unique.

Purchases can be made in person or via phone/email. For more information, please visit:

[#https://www.ussalabama.com/teak-deck-project/#ussalabama](https://www.ussalabama.com/teak-deck-project/#ussalabama) #WWII #wwiihistory #militaryhistory



Boxes for Camp Narvik, 1-327 Infantry, and Djibouti are going out on Monday, June 19. More are being packed this weekend for TF Viking. There are plenty of coffee, granola bars, beef sticks, nuts, tuna pouches, pop tarts, hard candy, Takis chips, crackers, etc...

We even ordered 4 large coffee pots for a new unit of 150, which only had one small pot for all of them. We are thankful for our supporters who created fundraisers for us last month. Because of you, we could send more items to our freedom keepers abroad. [#support4ourtroops](#) [#dixiereardetachment](#)



## 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



Give the help they need, when they need it.

### Mental Health First Aid Trainings

Vets Recover is proud to offer **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** to our community. Through this course, we aim to elevate our community's response to the mental health crisis in our area and educate community members on the value of building resiliency.

During our eight-hour training session, you will learn to identify and provide an initial, effective response for someone facing mental health challenges. You will also receive MHFA certification which can often be applied to **continuing education requirements**.

MHFA is being offered for \$30 per person (a \$170 value). If cost is a concern, please reach out as we will not let the cost be a barrier to participation.

### Register Today

Visit <https://vetsrecover.org/services/community-engagement/mental-health-first-aid/> and choose from one of the listed training dates. This website is updated frequently so check in often.

### Questions

Contact Melissa McKnight, Director of Community Integration, at [msm@vetsrecover.org](mailto:msm@vetsrecover.org)

**Register today. And make a difference in someone's life.**



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**JULY 4th**

THE FOURTH OF JULY,  
HOT DOGS & APPLE PIE.  
WITH GAMES WE PLAY,  
TO CELEBRATE THE DAY.

COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE,  
SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY.  
MAKES THE NATION SING,  
GOD LETS FREEDOM RING.

*for the Colonel*  
JOMAC-Patriots in Action

## Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Tony Ross, Cemetery Director for 11 years will be retiring, Joe Buschell, Associate Director will be the new Director, Kathy Miller will be the assistant director, and Darlene Corbin is Kathy's replacement.

A Retirement ceremony was held June 23. This past April marked ten years since the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery opened. Director Tony Ross has been there since day one. Predictions were about 100 veteran burials per year. In ten years, there have been almost thirty-eight hundred veterans interred at the cemetery. Already, crews are busy expanding for the next ten years. The cemetery is designed to last 100 years.

[Cemetery-Brochure-corrected.pdf \(alabama.gov\)](#)



### Gulf Coast Veterans Service

*A non-profit organization that wants to reach as many veterans as possible!*

*Their mission is to take our veterans on Mobile Bay to fish or cruise! (at no cost!) They want to help veterans escape any of their troubles with anxiety, depression, PTSD (etc.) by offering a day on the water!*

*Capt Eli Crawford – Out of the Deep*



*Capt Eli, USN, accepting military emblems for his pontoon boat, a gift from Jay Reeves, USCG*



## Captain Brian and the “Shady Lady” Fishing with America’s Finest

“Great day on the Gulf with 30 of America’s finest DAVs! We had a ball! This fishing trip has been running out of Zeke’s Landing for nearly 15 years! Our Captain Brian took care of us on the “Shady Lady.” Despite some rough seas, we maxed out our Snapper limit and as you can see, I reeled in a 50+ pound Amber Jack...it was a good fight and it would’ve made for some great filets, but since Amberjack is out of season, we released it. So glad both my sons Clark and Charles had a chance to spend a day on the water with these amazing Americans!”

*Col Steve Carey, USAF (Retired),  
President Veterans Day Commission*



The legendary “Shady Lady” is a custom-built sport fishing vessel that year after year is one of the top producing charter boats along the entire Gulf Coast. Capt. Brian Daniels and crew of the “Shady Lady” prides itself in trying to make every offshore charter as memorable as possible



## INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM IN NEW ORLEANS:

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations can understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. Through exhibits, multimedia experiences, and thousands of personal accounts, the Museum takes visitors on an immersive tour of World War II in every theater of war.

The National WWII Museum offers a wide variety of family activities that inform, educate, and entertain. If you're looking for kids' activities enjoyable for the whole family, you can't beat what the Museum has to offer. Ranked the #3 museum in the country and #8 in the world by TripAdvisor.

### SCOUT WEEK

The National WWII Museum's annual Scout Week. This program is designed for Scouts to tour the Museum's exhibits, explore the history and lessons of World War II, and participate in activities just for them.

### VOLUNTEER - VICTORY CORPS

The Victory Corps is The National WWII Museum's newest volunteer opportunity, seeking middle and high school students ages 13–17 with a passion for history and learning.

### SUMMER CAMP

An array of summer camp opportunities for kids. Using the history of World War II as a jumping-off point, campers have the chance to engage in fun, creative activities that will ignite their imaginations!

### KIDS CANTEEN

Escape the heat of the summer by spending select Saturdays enjoying a matinee in The National WWII Museum's BB's Stage Door Canteen!

[Youth and Family Programs | The National WWII Museum | New Orleans \(nationalww2museum.org\)](#)



## The Top 5 Veteran Research Questions: Where to Go and What to Know

1. How can I learn about my veteran's WWII story, and what are the necessary first steps?
2. What if the veteran served less than 62 years ago or was in Vietnam?
3. What if the veteran was KIA or died while in the service? Would this be included in the ompf?
4. Where do I locate replacement medals and decorations?
5. What if the veteran's file at the national archives was burned? Is there anything else we can do?

[The Top 5 Veteran Research Questions: Where to Go and What to Know | The National WWII Museum | New Orleans \(nationalww2museum.org\)](#)

## Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day and Native Americans in World War II

While Navajo **code talkers** of World War II have been featured in several books and, in 2002, a Hollywood movie, in recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day it is important to remember that members of many different tribes served in this role.



*Native Americans of the 45th Infantry Division, 1917. Indigenous peoples have a long history of service to the nation. Native Americans from more than 50 tribes served in every military service during World War II, and in many roles supporting the war effort from the Home Front as well. Image courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division Museum.*

[Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day and Native Americans in World War II | The National WWII Museum | New Orleans \(nationalww2museum.org\)](#)

## **The Lone Sailor - Who is the Lone Sailor?**

The Lone Sailor signifies the men and women who have served, are serving or will serve in the Navy. He's called the Lone Sailor, yet he is hardly ever alone. He is about 25 years old, a senior second-class petty officer who is fast becoming a seagoing veteran. He has done it all -- fired weapons in war, provided humanitarian assistance in far-away lands, been attacked by the enemy, and defended our freedom. He has made liberty calls in great cities and tiny villages where he was a tourist, ambassador, adventurer, friend, and missionary to those less fortunate. His shipmates remember him with pride and look up to him with respect.

The lone Sailor includes an iconic symbol of the Navy Memorial's mission to *Honor, Recognize, and Celebrate the men and women of the Sea Services, past, present, and future; and to Inform the public about their service.* Click on an image to learn more about the legacy of the Lone Sailor.

[The Lone Sailor — United States Navy Memorial](#)

## **Creative Concept to Casting**

The Lone Sailor statue was sculpted by Stanley Bleifeld. He served as an enlisted man in the Navy during World War II, being assigned to illustrate Navy training manuals. Bleifeld believed the Lone Sailor should represent Sailors around the world. To achieve this, he did not use a single model – he used multiple models to create the Lone Sailor we know and love today.

Rear Admiral William Thompson, USN (Ret.), was the first president and CEO of the Navy Memorial. He wanted a figure that would stand out “above” the crowd, but only slightly larger than life size. This would allow visitors, including children, to relate to him and take photographs by the side. The Lone Sailor statue now stands proudly at 7 feet tall in different locations around the world.

The Lone Sailor statue also includes a 'ragement of the USS Maine.

The original Lone Sailor statue took command of his place at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC, over 30 years ago. It was cast at the Tallix Foundry in New York, which is owned by Mr. Richard Polich. Polich was a commissioned naval officer in the late 1950s – a fitting partner for the Navy Memorial.

Artifacts from eight U.S. Navy ships were melted into bronze during the casting process. The statue includes various fragments from the *USS Constitution*, *USS Constellation*, *USS Maine*, *USS Biloxi*, *USS Hancock*, *USS Seawolf*, *USS Nautilus*, and the steamer *Hartford*. These ships span the Navy's history and will forever be a part of the Lone Sailor legacy.

The Lone Sailor statue was unveiled at the Navy Memorial's dedication on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1987.

The Lone Sailor statue is the iconic symbol representing the United States Navy Memorial's mission to Honor, Recognize, and Celebrate the men and women of the Sea Services, past, present, and future; and Inform the public about their service. These meaningful statues provide a reminder to active duty, veterans, and civilians that they serve a grateful nation.

The Navy Memorial's Statue City Program began in 1997 with the placement of a Lone Sailor statue at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL. There are 18 Lone Sailor Statues around the world, including the original on Navy Memorial Plaza in Washington, DC.

To learn more about installing a statue in your city, please contact Lisa Barker at

[lbarker@navymemorial.org](mailto:lbarker@navymemorial.org) or 202-380-0726.



The Lone Sailor standing watch  
at the beaches of Normandy

[Lone Sailor Statue Program — United States Navy Memorial](#)

## Fort Stewart, GA

Fort Stewart's host unit is the 3rd Infantry Division, one of the US Army's most successful and honored units of any size.

The 3rd Infantry Division has one of the most successful combat records of any U.S. Army division.[3] It has paid a high price for this distinction, suffering more than 50,000 wartime casualties. Fifty-one members of the 3rd Infantry WDivision have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

The **3rd Infantry Division** (nicknamed the "Rock of the Marne"[2]) is a United States Army infantry division based at Fort Stewart, Georgia. It is a direct subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps and U.S. Army Forces Command. The division fought in France in World War I. In World War II, it landed with Gen. Patton's task force in a contested amphibious landing on the coast of Morocco, overwhelming Vichy French defenders in November 1942. North Africa. In 1943, the division invaded Sicily in July, and invaded Italy at Salerno in September, before fighting in France and finally Germany. The division suffered the highest casualty rate of any American Division in World War II. Its exploits are aptly illustrated by its Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, featured in the Hollywood movie, "To Hell and Back." The division also deployed to Korea in 1950 during the Korean War and fought in some of the toughest combat of the conflict. From 1957 until 1996, the division was the "backbone" of the United States Army's presence in the NATO alliance in West Germany.

The 3rd Infantry Division was the first conventional U.S. unit to cross the border into Iraq and enter Baghdad during the 2003 invasion, and the first division to serve four tours in Iraq.[citation needed] Its current organization includes four brigade combat teams, one aviation brigade, and support elements.



*Hat given to Jim Jeffries, a soldier of the 3rd Infantry Division, by Lou Lartigue, LTC USA (Ret) President, SAVC*

## American Legion District 33 - Post 76 -

Marvin McDuffie turned in his gavel after 20 years as Commander of the post. Henrietta Davis is now the commander.

### FACEBOOK - THIS POSTED BY DAVE RILEY:

🎉 Exciting news, everyone! 🌟🎉 I am thrilled to announce that I am a part of an incredible new TV show called American Homecoming! 🇺🇸🌟 It combines the heartwarming stories of disabled veterans with the magic of home renovations. I can't wait to share more about this inspiring journey with you all. Stay tuned for updates, behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, and more. Get ready for a show that will touch your heart and uplift your spirits. 🏡❤️  
[#AmericanHomecoming](#) [#TVShow](#) [#ComingSoon](#)



DAVID W. RILEY Past National Commander DAV (Disabled American Veterans) David W. Riley was elected National Commander of the 1.3 million-member DAV at the organization's 2016 National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. He was selected DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 2010. He also served as Chairman of the organization's Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights. Riley is a veteran of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Coast Guard. In the Army (1976-82) he served as a radar repair technician with tours of duty including Korea. He joined the Coast Guard in 1983 and served as a helicopter rescue swimmer. While on active duty at the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama, he contracted septic shock pneumococcus sepsis. He was hospitalized for three months and lost all four limbs and some internal organs due to the infection. Following his medical retirement from the Coast Guard in 1997, Riley earned a bachelor's degree in computer sciences and a master's degree in computer science. He is a retired analyst for Gulf Coast Technical Services. Riley is a life member of Chapter 7 in Mobile, Alabama. He also volunteers at the VA outpatient clinic in Mobile.



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American Forces Travel<sup>SM</sup> is committed to providing high-quality and best value travel services to patrons affiliated with the Department of Defense as a way to thank them for their service and dedication to our country.

## Authorized Patrons Today:

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- All members of the Reserve components and National Guard
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Active Duty
- All current active duty and retired National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- All current active duty and retired US Public Health Service (USPHS)
- All retired military, including those in the Reserves and National Guard who are retirement eligible
- All Medal of Honor recipients
- All veterans with service-connected disabilities, all veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, all veterans who are former prisoners of war, all individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

- Eligible family members who are officially sponsored (ID card holder) by authorized patrons in the above categories
- All Department of Defense and Coast Guard civilians, including appropriated funds (APF) employees and nonappropriated funds (NAF) employees
- Full-time, paid employees of the American Red Cross and United Service Organizations (USO) hired in the United States and serving at U.S. DoD installations overseas
- All Veterans of the United States Armed Forces with a discharge status of honorable or general under honorable conditions.

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## MILITARY DATES TO REMEMBER JULY

Independence Day	July 4
National Hire A Veteran Day	July 25
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day	July 27
National Buffalo Soldiers Day	July 28
Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary	July 29



## 2023 POW/MIA CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

South lawn of the Capital, Montgomery, AL.

The event is sponsored by and is an official state of AL function. The team is comprised of members of the AL, MCL, VFW, State & city of Montgomery.



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.

ADVA serves Alabama's veterans from the moment they take off their uniform for the final time through eternity. Learn more about eligibility and pre-registration for the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort: <https://va.alabama.gov/veterans-memorial-cemetery/>

**As a reminder:** Please remember to keep a copy of your DD-214 handy so if needed for any reason, your loved ones can find it.



Have you met your local Veterans Service Officer? 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 office locations and hours here: <https://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer/>



**ATTENTION!**

REMINDER: AS OF JULY 31, 2023, THE MINIMUM DISABILITY RATING REQUIREMENT FOR THE ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WILL INCREASE TO 40%



MOBILE MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY  
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®

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

**Love Me Always** a local nonprofit which serves veterans, and others in our community received a grant from SAVC at the June meeting.



Chaplain Lloyd Michael Austin and Ivy

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

Contact Lou Lartigue [loulartigue@bellsouth.net](mailto:loulartigue@bellsouth.net)



### 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 McCormack*  
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

### American Legion District 33

**Willie Dunning is now** the Commander Mobile County,  
33rd Dist., 3rd Div., American Legion  
Department of Alabama.

### CHECK OUT THE ACCOMMODA- TIONS & ECONOMICAL RATES AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 88

2663 Halls Mill Road  
Mobile, AL 36606

Maximum capacity – 200 people  
Hall rental fee - \$200.00

\$50.00 Clean-up fee  
(Returnable if facility is left clean)

Alcohol, Soft Drinks, & Snacks available at the Pay Bar  
Available Add Own's

Use of Kitchen facilities - \$50.00

Use of Barbecue Pit - \$25.00 – waiver required

Stereo Music /Disc Jockey/ – Fee to be determined

For Additional Information  
or Reservations

Call 251-508-0992

### MONTFORD POINT MARINES CHAPTER 33, BOSTON BUTTS SAVE THE DAY:

*“A Devine Intervention”*

*For the couple from Brazil on vacation in America, traveling through Mobile, AL from California in a Class-A motorhome over 12 feet high, headed to the Bankhead Tunnel on June 17.*

*We rarely travel down Highway 90, Government St., on a Friday or Saturday afternoon in the summer knowing the accident record on the Bay Way and Causeway. There is bound to be a traffic nightmare happening near the Bankhead Tunnel, and on Saturday, June 17 at 3:00 pm, we found ourselves in the middle of a nightmare headed to the Bankhead Tunnel.*

*We picked up two Boston Butts, which were prepared for us by the Montford Point Marines Chapter 33 at American Legion Post 76. MPMA were raising money for their Scholarship fund.*

*Down Virginia St., past the National Cemetery, over to Washington Ave., we turned right on Government, and there it was! The traffic was backed up all the way to Broad St. and tempers were flaring.*

*Well, to my amazement, there was a Class-A motorhome “Travel Florida” in the center lane headed to the Bankhead Tunnel, and if you are from these parts, you know what’s wrong with this picture.*

*We caught up to them, got their attention, and asked, “You know there is a tunnel ahead?” To their astonishment, they didn’t know there was a tunnel with a 12-foot limit. We told them to follow us and we would get them out of this nightmare.*

*Down Government St., onto Water St, then I-165, we led them across the Africatown Bridge, past the east entrance to the Bankhead Tunnel, and across the causeway. We spoke to them briefly and told them how to avoid the horrors of the Bay Way by traveling Highway 31 to 59, right turn to I-10.*

*They were so thankful we helped them avoid the multiple wrecks on the Bay Way Saturday. We were ready to offer them one of our Boston Butts, but they were fully supplied with food.*

*The Tunnel will win every time...*

*Neil & Fran*

### HISTORY OF THE USA

MEMORIALS ON DISPLAY,  
FOR ALL TO SEE EACH DAY.  
TO NEVER TO BE PUT ASIDE,  
NOR BE IGNORED OR TO HIDE.

EACH TO TEACH OUR HISTORY,  
OF FREE SPEECH AND LIBERTY.  
A LESSON TO UNDERSTAND,  
THE STORIES OF OUR LAND.

*Joe McCormack*  
JOMAC - POETRY IN Stone

**VA launches national PACT Act Summer VetFest to encourage Veterans and survivors to apply for new health care and benefits**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 27, 2023

**WASHINGTON** – In July, VA will kick off PACT Act Summer VetFest to inform Veterans, their families, and survivors about the PACT Act and encourage them to apply for the health care and benefits they have earned. The PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law on Aug. 10, 2022, is the biggest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in generations.

I've attached a toolkit with PACT Act and Vet Fest outreach materials, social posts, links, graphics and FAQs. We're in a big push to raise awareness of how the PACT Act has expanded eligibility for benefits and services, and to encourage Veterans to file a claim as soon as possible. That is because most Veterans and survivors who apply for benefits or submit an "Intent to File" by **August 9**, if granted, will have their **benefits backdated to August 10th of last year** – the day that President Biden signed the PACT Act into law. There was a press release sent out on the Summer Vet Fest recently. It can be found here:

[VA launches national PACT Act Summer VetFest to encourage Veterans and survivors to apply for new health care and benefits - VA News](#)

**Bronwyn Emmet**

Public Affairs Specialist

National Veterans Outreach Office

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA)

Department of Veterans Affairs

**South Alabama Veterans Council**

**June 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with – 36 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. Ashleigh Long, candidate for circuit court spoke briefly about her campaign platform.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tom Schwarz - hat collected \$108.00 expenditures of grants.

**GRANTS:** Grant candidates for June is Infinite Opportunity (home for male Vets) Michelle Davis; John 9:3 J.D. Drinkard; Michael Austin, Love Me Always Ministries.

**VSO Report - Jim Jeffries** reported on American Legion District 33, POW/MIA Ceremony, and American Forces Travel.

**ASVMC- Col Pat Downing** –Ten-year expansion is on schedule. Tony Ross Retirement Ceremony,

Joe Buschell promoted to Director and Kathy Miller will be the assistant director, and Darlene Corbin is Kathy's replacement

**Battleship USS Alabama – Col Pat Downing** teak deck on schedule, \$8.2 million dollars to replace the deck, schedule completion May 2024. Items made from teak are now on sale.

**Memorial Day Flag Relay – Chaplain Endel Lee** reported on the Flay Relay in Mobile, Baldwin County, and Pensacola.

**Veterans Recovery Resources: John Kilpatrick** reported on the grand opening of the inpatient facility on Veterans Day, 2023, if you would like a tour, call and they will set it up. The Swiss Cleaners Building has been purchased for expansion.

**PGR – Richard Ullo**, HOTH Captain reported on the Daphne City Hall Meeting regarding funeral escorts.

**Guest Speaker- Robert Kennedy, Jr.**, Boys & Girls Club South Alabama, Chief Executive Officer. **Out of the Deep** – Capt Eli reported on his fishing trips that give veterans and their families an opportunity to get out on the water in a pontoon boat.

**Montford Point Marines Chapter 33 -MGynSgt House** – reported on their fundraiser to raise money for the scholarship fund.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50am  
Fran Barber

Secretary, SAVC June 20, 2023

**Veterans Helping Veterans**  
SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>  
0700 – 1400  
NO PRE-REGISTRATION-ENTRY FEE \$30.00  
Cars and Trucks will be judged by the Frankie Kucera Group  
Sponsor: P. L. Wilson Detachment 447 Marine Corp League  
Co-Sponsors: MOBILE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MOBILE COUNTY ALABAMA, GARDBERG & KEMMERLY  
SECOND ANNUAL Car Show  
Location Battleship Memorial Park  
2703 Battleship Parkway Mobile, AL 36602  
Any questions contact Tom Claxton - 251-767-8489