



# 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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251-471-4322  
Council President

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Council VP

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

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

**NEXT SAVC MEETING – Tuesday, July 16, 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:



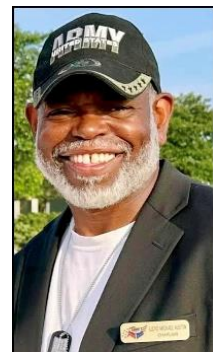
*"We are well into the summer, and Mother Nature is roaring. Remember to do your Buddy Checks to make sure our Vets are coping with the heat and rain.*

*To change the subject--we learned this past month that the plight of Veteran Funding in Alabama has suffered a real setback. I encourage you to read the Op-Ed that follows in the newsletter and use that information to further your own investigation and validation. I also encourage you to use this information to discuss 'Veteran Support in Alabama' with your representatives.*

*Our ADVA is working hard to increase visibility and Veteran funding to ensure the 400,000 Veterans in Alabama get a fair-shake when it comes to funding. We can only move the needle if we let our voices be heard. As we celebrate the 4th of July, we have to thank our Veterans for their efforts and insist that they receive the support they deserve."*

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

### Chaplains Corner:



*Greetings everyone!*

*It's a morning prayer,  
Read Psalm 5:3*

*"My voice shall you hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer onto You, and I will look up."*

*It is wonderful to start our mornings by talking to our Heavenly Father in Jesus' Name. He really does love to hear from us. The Bible states that the ears of the Lord are attentive to the prayers of the righteous. He also hears all other prayers as well. So, keep on praying and keep on listening for the answers. I also encourage us to keep looking up to the hills from which comes our help, all of our help comes from the Lord.*

*In the Name of Jesus, Amen!*

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin  
Chaplain, SAVC



## **Mongomery Lobbyists and Special Interest Groups Ignore Veterans Needs**

**“Alabama’s veterans came out with the short end of the stick from this year’s Legislature in three areas. They were:**

- Access to Health Care**
- Opioid Settlement Funds**
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Grant Program**

**Here is how it happened:**

**Alabama’s nearly 400,000 veterans began to have hope that the State of Alabama was finally taking steps to address the very specific healthcare needs of veterans as we learned that Senator Andrew Jones and Representative Chip Brown introduced House Bill 197/Senate Bill 135, which would have authorized the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) to establish and operate a healthcare system for veterans and their immediate families. As envisioned, the new system would have complemented the overwhelmed federal Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities in the state while focusing on an integrated healthcare approach focusing on mental healthcare and substance abuse issues among veterans.**

**Simultaneously, Representative Rex Reynolds, a co-chair of the state’s Oversight Commission on Alabama Opioid Settlement Funds, announced his intention to ensure that a significant portion of the settlement funds would be earmarked for wellness programs for Alabama’s veterans and immediate families. This was only fitting as veterans’ opioid overdoses occur at twice the rate of non-veterans.**

**Additionally, ADVA had begun implementation of a first-ever grant program, using American Rescue Plan Act dollars, to fund veteran well-being programs delivered by community-based non-profits and institutions of higher education across the state. Those funds were to be delivered via a partnership between ADVA and the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH).**

**As it turned out, veterans wound up on the losing end of the proposition in all these matters, primarily due to special interest groups and their lobbyists. For example, HB197/SB135, introduced by Senator Jones and Rep. Brown, was hijacked by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) and its cadre of grassroots lobbyists who completely rewrote the bill. The substitute bill, which was first vetted through the Governor’s office with no apparent input from ADVA or the legislature, and then presented to the original bill’s sponsors as the only acceptable version, set up two largely meaningless token efforts: (1) it created a committee to further study the**

**problem of mental health issues of veterans in Alabama (already a thoroughly studied topic); and (2) it purports to create “pilot programs” funded through ADMH, even**

**though various, successful programs for veterans already exist in Alabama and many other states. The only part of this that “may” benefit veterans was that \$3M was earmarked for veteran’s pilot programs through the ADMH. It will be interesting to see if any of the \$3M actually goes to a veteran’s program.**

**That was not the end. When Rep. Reynolds introduced his supplemental appropriation bill for initial distribution of opioid settlement funds, over \$20 million was earmarked for generic ADMH programs, with no mention of tailored programs for veterans. Moreover, ADMH unilaterally (and with no prior notice of any concerns)—having done little to nothing for more than four months—pulled out of its Memorandum of Agreement with ADVA for distribution of American Rescue Plan Act dollars to non-profits and educational institutions. Rep. Reynolds made a last-ditch effort to fund the grant program from existing alternative funds, but those alternative funds were not included in the supplemental appropriation, which effectively killed the entire grant program, depriving veterans of millions of dollars in assistance. To save the ADVA Grant Program, the Commissioner of Veteran Affairs had to take \$7M from internal programs. This was basically a rob Peter to pay Paul action, but the Montgomery lobbyist's shenanigans left him no other choice.**

**For years, the veteran community has voiced its concerns about the growing crisis of mental health for veterans in our state. The worsening statistics among our state’s veterans speak for themselves. For example, the per capita number of veteran suicides in Alabama is among the absolute worst in the nation, with our state’s veterans twice as likely to die by suicide as members of the general population. Veterans are also more than twice as likely to become addicted to opioids as the general public.**

**Despite these statistics, little has been done by Alabama’s elected officials to address veterans’ mental health or substance abuse issues. ADMH’s willingness or interest in providing tailored services for veterans has been near zero. The legislature’s only solution is to give more dollars to ADMH in the mistaken belief that ADMH has finally awakened to the crisis of veteran mental health. Instead, ADMH proposes redundant studies and pilot programs while refusing to fund existing programs in the private sector that have already proven to be successful. ADMH needs to be held to account for its abysmal failure to address the needs of the 400,000 veterans who call Alabama home—the same veterans who have served their nation and state so faithfully, only to be ignored and abandoned at home.**

**Veteran and VSOs of the South Alabama Veterans Council. Contact your elected representatives and Senators in the Alabama State Legislature and voice your displeasure of their continued neglect of our veteran’s needs.”**

**The above OP. ED. has been approved by the President of the South Alabama Veterans Council (SAVC), for publication in the SAVC newsletter; and is responsible for the accuracy of the content.**

## Warrior Legacy Ranch

Our Mission: To offer military veterans the opportunity to reunite with members of their unit to reconnect in a single location to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide.

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded its grip on the world, 2 - Marine Veterans from 1st Battalion 6th Marine Regiment CAAT Platoon, 2004 initiated a recurring Zoom call, extending an open invitation to all members of their 2004 platoon. These bi-weekly Saturday gatherings, each lasting 4-5 hours, became a cherished source of solace for many. More significantly, they ignited the spark of a reunion, culminating in a heartfelt gathering after nearly 17 years of separation. It felt as though those 17 years had evaporated, leaving behind only their added weight and a slightly slower pace. The reunion weekend proved to be a profound and poignant event, enriched by the presence of their families, whom bore witness to previously untold stories despite many being married for over a decade. This event not only fortified their bonds as Marines but also nurtured connections among their spouses, whom have since established a support group for veterans' spouses across different states in the form of a group text. The only challenging part of that weekend was the AirBNB for \$1500/night, in order to find a location large enough to host 35 people. Realizing that not every Veteran may have the opportunity to spend large amounts of money on a reunion and would miss out on the benefits that were gained, the dream of Warrior Legacy Ranch was born



If you are interested seeing this wall in your hometown, look up the [Roman's Warrior Foundation](#) website or [Facebook page](#). Michael Gasperini also suggests calling him at 910-554-2123

The wall is a moving tribute—120 feet long—symbolizing honor, strength, courage, loyalty, and family values in America.

22163 Creekfront Dr  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

22163 Creekfront Dr  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Presented by  
**GWOT Wall of Remembrance**  
August 22-25, 2024

Sponsored By:  
**UNUS SUPRA**

Concert at the Ranch  
August 24th 6:00PM  
Featuring  
Sal Gonzalez from 2014 AGT  
Chris Turner and Lochridge & Co  
with special guest Stephen Cochran  
Free General Admission  
Bring a Chair or Blanket

Label 22

**Warrior Legacy Ranch** is honored to host the GWOT Wall of Remembrance. This traveling memorial, with its solemn purpose, aims to bring healing to those affected by America's longest war. The Wall lists the names of nearly 11,000 individuals lost in the war on terror, serving as a powerful reminder of their sacrifice.

[Memorial Wall of Remembrance set up in Marion Illinois to honor American Veterans - KBSI Fox 23 Cape Girardeau News | Paducah News \(kbsi23.com\)](#)



One side of the wall has over 10,000 names on it, and the other side has all the history. There are two panels that are really special on that wall, too, their blank panels. One thing that you've probably heard about is that 22 veterans a day die, so if you had a veteran that committed suicide, you can write their name on there, and they will continue to travel because of the demons and devils they may face when coming back from a combat environment and make sure that they are always going to be remembered as well.



The Mobile Council of the Navy League of the United States held its annual awards banquet on June 18, 2024, at the Mobile Yacht Club. They awarded the ADM William Stewart Scholarship to Cadet Abigail Glass, Robertsdale HS NJROTC, and also awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Award to PO3 John Burkett, US Naval Sea Cadets, Dunlop Division. Several members of the crew of the USS KINGSVILLE (LCS 38) attended, and the executive officer gave a quick brief of the current activities of the crew. It was a great event.

## ALABAMA VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Congressionally Chartered Service Organizations Represented on the State Board of Veterans Affairs

[ALABAMA VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS – Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)



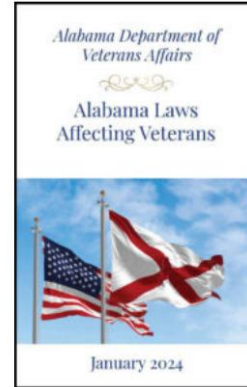
- [Troy University](#) **grant award \$200,017** – TU’s project “Mobile National Cemetery: United States Colored Troops (MNC/USCT)” will memorialize the service of Black Civil War Veterans interred at Mobile National Cemetery. Students at Troy University and several south Alabama middle and high schools will engage in original historical research to tell the stories of seventy-eight USCT Veterans buried there — some fighting to end slavery, others to escape it — and to tell the collective story of these men as they navigated post-war Mobile.



ADVA holds itself personally and professionally accountable to deliver on America’s promises to all veterans through courage, conviction, and a belief in our core values.

Learn more about our 63 Veterans Service Offices, State Veterans Homes, Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program, and the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort here: <https://va.alabama.gov/>

## [ALABAMA LAWS AFFECTING VETERANS – Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)



DOWNLOAD BOOKLET:

[400718-001-Laws-Affecting-Veterans-Veteran-Affairs-Jan.-2024-NC.pdf \(alabama.gov\)](#)

### PREFACE

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) receives many requests for information regarding benefits provided by our state for veterans and their dependents.

This pamphlet was prepared to give a brief summary of these benefits. If full and comprehensive treatment of the law is desired, it may be found in the referenced section of the Code of Alabama.

Representatives of the ADVA, known as veterans service officers (VSO), are located throughout the state. Their offices are typically in the county courthouse or in the immediate vicinity. They will be happy to assist applicants with these benefits, and their services are entirely free. To find the office nearest you, visit [va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer](http://va.alabama.gov/serviceofficer).

Due to budgetary constraints, the ADVA has a limited supply of this pamphlet; however, feel free to reproduce this pamphlet for your use or distribution. It may be accessed at [va.alabama.gov/laws-affecting-veterans](http://va.alabama.gov/laws-affecting-veterans).

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

## How can I get my DD214 or other service records?

Most federal, state, and local veterans’ benefits require proof of military service through an official discharge document, often called a DD-214 or one of its predecessors. You may request a free copy of your military service record through the National Archives at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/> To get copies of National Guard records, contact the Adjutant General’s office at 334-213-7574.



**South Alabama Veterans Council  
VETERANS SPOTLIGHT**

**ROBERT FRANKLIN BARROW,  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret), U.S. Army**

Director of Army Instruction. Mobile County Public School System – Junior Reserve Officer Training Program, Mobile, Alabama

Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1958 and raised in Mobile, Alabama, Lieutenant Colonel Barrow graduated from Shaw High School in 1975 and the University of South Alabama in 1979. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Air Defense Artillery. Lieutenant Colonel Barrow earned a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1984. In addition, he completed a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts from Spring Hill College in 2008. He also completed a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in 2011 from Grand Canyon University. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Armed Forces Staff College Joint and Combined Staff Officer School.

Over the course of his career, Lieutenant Colonel Barrow's tours of duty have included command and operations assignments in various commands. His duty assignments include the 32d Army Air Defense Command in the Federal Republic of Germany, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Lieutenant Colonel Barrow retired from the Army on 1 January 2002 and immediately assumed duties as the Senior Army Instructor for the Junior ROTC program at LeFlore High School in Mobile, Alabama. After teaching in the classroom for eleven years, he was selected for his current position as the Director of Army Instruction responsible for supervising all JROTC programs in the Mobile County Public School System.

Decorations awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Barrow include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (w/3 OLC), Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (w/4 OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal (w/Service Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service

Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2 tours), NATO Medal, and Master Parachutist Badge. He is a recipient of British, Canadian, and Honduran parachute badges and was awarded the German Rocket/Missile Qualification Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Barrow is married to the former Cheryl K. Ellis of Daphne, Alabama. They have two daughters, Corey and Lauren.



Col Barrow was selected as the 2022 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year





"It was a sad day that we had to say goodbye to one of the oldest VFW Post in Alabama.



The VFW Post 49 was chartered as the General Robert L. Bullard VFW Post 49 on 5 January 1934. That would make the Post 90 years old this year. At one time, the post was the 7th largest in the VFW, with over 1200 members. The VFW State and District saw fit to close the post despite its struggle to turn itself around.



Regardless, we conducted a retirement ceremony on 5 June 2024 to honor the many members who have passed through the Post. We lowered the flag and blew taps as a closing gesture to this great institution. We want to thank the members who tried to keep it afloat. We also want to thank the PL Wilson Detachment of the Marine Corps League for assisting in this somber task."

Lou Lartigue, LTC US Army (Ret)  
Past Commander

### American Legion Post 250 2024 Officers

American Legion Post 250 2024 officers: Tommy Jones - committee member; Maurice Ryan - Sergeant at Arms; Rick Moritz- committee member; Bobby Welford- Finance Officer; Pat Cook- 2nd Vice Commander; Thomas Graham- 1st Vice Commander; and Elijah Crawford - 2024 Commander. Congratulations to all of you!



IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS STRUGGLING...  
WE ARE HERE TO HELP

**VETERAN PEER SUPPORT  
ON DUTY 24/7**

251-405-3677



VETSRECOVER.ORG

We are seeking several Veteran & First Responder Peer Support Specialists. If you are a Veteran or First Responder in long-term recovery, we'd love to hear from you. We have full and part time positions available, including nights, evenings and weekend shifts across our complete Continuum-of-Care, including Inpatient, Outpatient and Community programs.

Come see how [Vets Recover](https://www.vetsrecover.org) is transforming the culture of care for Veterans, First Responders and their families.

Apply online at [www.vetsrecover.org/careers](https://www.vetsrecover.org/careers)

@followers

#CCBHC

## The USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission: Teak Deck Replacement Completion Ceremony with Governor Ivey.

USS ALABAMA's Teak Deck Replacement Project Completion Ceremony Thursday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m. USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park is proud to formally announce the completion of the Teak Deck Replacement Project! A ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m. in the Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion to celebrate this significant milestone. Following the brief ceremony will be a ribbon cutting at the bottom of the battleship's gangway. The ceremony is open to all who would like to attend.



"Bear", a fire and rescue chief, who served his country for over 20 years in the USAF, received his QOV Saturday surrounded by over 30 family members.



### ALABAMA WAR MEMORIAL

The Alabama War Memorial Walk Brick w/ Miniature \$85.00

The Alabama War Memorial was dedicated July 20 1968 to honor veterans from all wars. Since that time the memorial has aged and is in need of updating. Engraving on the bricks are limited to 3 lines with 18 characters. As you fill out the required engraving please include spaces and symbols. If you wish to order more miniature bricks please select the additional product. If you wish an American Legion Post, Sons of The American Legion Squadron, or American Legion Auxiliary Unit to receive credit for the purchase of the brick please provide the number under the option.

[The Alabama War Memorial Walk Brick w/ Miniature \(legional.org\)](http://legional.org)



**2024-2025 Department. Alabama MCL Judge Advocate** and MODD Pack Smartdog Jermaine Payne with Department. Alabama Newsletter Editor Kimber Payne and PDD Logan Payne.



### WHO WE ARE

**Team RWB is a community of veterans, service members, military families, and supporters united by teamwork, shared values, and a common goal.**

**We help veterans lead healthier lives through fitness events, training, and programs.**

**Join the nation's leading health and wellness community for veterans.**

We officially have a Chapter here in Mobile! If you are interested follow the link, join, then download the app and join the Mobile, al chapter group.

[Join – Team Red, White & Blue \(teamrwb.org\)](http://teamrwb.org)



# AIRBUS

LINK FOR THE NEW AIRBUS  
VETERANS HIRING WEBSITE

[Join our talent community](#)

At Airbus, **veterans serve in a new way**. Whether it's on the ground, in the sky or in space, our team together to accomplish the extraordinary.

Looking for an opportunity to make a positive impact on the world around you? **Join the Airbus Talent Community** and help us achieve our mission to pioneer the future of aerospace.

Whether you're looking to join the private sector in one month or one year, **Airbus supports you in developing your new career plan**. Find out all the information you need to make the right choice and take your first step in joining Team Airbus!

<https://www.airbus.com/en/careers/life-at-airbus/working-here/working-at-airbus-in-the-us/join-forces-with-hundreds-of-veterans>

**Mobile, Ala.** – Austal USA has started construction on the future USNS James D. Fairbanks (T-ATS 13), the third of five steel U.S. Navy Navajo Class Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ships Austal USA has under contract with the Navy. Construction is well underway on both the future USNS Billy Frank Jr. (T-ATS 11) and USNS Solomon Atkinson (T-ATS 12).



[AUSTAL USA STARTS CONSTRUCTION ON T-ATS 13 – The Business View](#)

GET READY FOR AN  
INDEPENDENCE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
THE CITY OF MOBILE!

\*\*\*\*\*

USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK  
JULY 4, 2024 | 6-9:30PM  
FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 9PM SHARP

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES BY  
SYMONE FRENCH & THE TROUILLE TROUPE  
6:30-7:30PM  
GET SIDEWAYS, 7:45-9PM

www.MobileParksAndRec.org

## Alabama Legion Riders chapter providing both flags, recognition to area veterans

More than 18 months ago, the American Legion Riders chapter at Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88 in Mobile, Ala., began installing flagpoles and U.S. flags on the properties of aging veterans. Since then, close to 20 flags have been installed in what has morphed beyond a Riders' project and into a Legion Family and community effort.

The program is the brainchild of Chapter 88 Director George Johnson, a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 88. Johnson was unavailable for an interview, but Chapter 88 Finance Officer Wendy Denton, a member of Auxiliary Unit 88, was quick to praise him.

Read the full article:

[Alabama Legion Riders chapter providing both flags, recognition to area veterans | The American Legion](#)

## FOLLOW THE ARMY ROTC ON FACEBOOK



**University of South Alabama  
Army ROTC**

1K likes • 1.2K followers



**University of South Alabama  
Office of Veteran Affairs**

<https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/veteransaffairs/>



**Vets Recover Team Community Service Day at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery**



"Homeless and at-risk veterans need more than just shelter. We must give them the tools to empower themselves and reclaim the self-worth and dignity which comes from occupying a place in the American dream. It is a dream they fought so hard to defend for the rest of us."

-Maria Cuomo Cole

**July 09, 2024 | 10 AM - 2 PM CST**

**3041 Ross Clark Circle,  
Dothan, AL**



**United begins direct flights connecting Mobile and Washington, D.C.**

Mobile's new direct air connection to Washington, D.C., opened Thursday and will provide two United flights daily.

The service, announced in March, connects Mobile Regional Airport in west Mobile to Washington Dulles International Airport. United already offered a connection to Dulles via George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, and that will still be an option according to United's booking site. But the Houston route takes five to six hours, according to the site, while the new direct connection takes two and a half.

**Quick list of Flag Etiquette Don'ts:**

- Don't dip the U.S. Flag for any person, flag, or vessel.
- Don't let the U.S. flag touch the ground.
- Don't fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.
- Don't carry the U.S. flag flat, or carry things in it.
- Don't use the U.S. flag as clothing.
- Don't store the U.S. flag where it can get dirty.
- Don't use it as a cover.
- Don't fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.
- Don't draw on, or otherwise mark the U.S. flag.
- Don't use the U.S. flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.

Image	Description
	When carried in procession with other flags the U.S. flag should be either on the marching right (the flag's right) or to the front and center of the flag line. When displayed on a float in a parade, the flag should be hung from a staff or suspended so it falls free. It should not be draped over a vehicle.
	When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on its own right (left to a person facing the wall) and its staff should be in front of the other flag's staff.
	In a group of flags displayed from staffs, the U.S. flag should be at the center and the highest point.
	When the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or suspended so that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.
	When the U.S. flag is displayed from as projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the unless the flag is at half-staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first from the building.
	When flags of states, cities or organizations are flown on the same staff, the U.S. flag must be at the top (except during church services conducted at sea by Navy chaplains)

**You are a woman Veteran.**  
We want to know about your healthcare needs.

We are seeking women who are interested in making Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System a better place for women Veterans. Attend our Women's Health Public Forum.

**When?**  
Thursday August 15, 2024  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Where?**  
Mobile CBOC  
Fort Gaines Room

If you are interested in participating, please contact:  
**Donna Maxwell, Women Veterans Program Manager**  
850-912-2219 or donna.maxwell@va.gov

Find the available health services and resources you have earned as a woman Veteran.

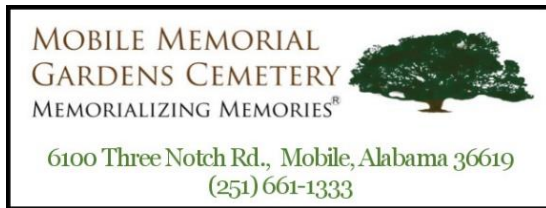
**Women Veterans Call Center**  
1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)  
and  
www.womenshealth.va.gov

## July Dates to Remember:

**July 4, 2024 – Independence Day**

**July 28, 2024 – Korean War Veterans**

**Armistice Day**



**Saucy Q Bar B Que**

**NEXT SAVC MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 18, 8:30 a.m.**

**Saucy Q BBQ**

**1111 Government St–Mobile AL**

## VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES

Helping Veterans in Mobile County and Baldwin County (and extending throughout Alabama). We have created a list of Veteran Owned Businesses and Veteran Service Organizations (also nonprofits) so that we can know about them, share them with our organizations, and help them by showing them support and using their services. Even if you are listed on this website, please register today, and share with others who may be interested. Thank you.

The link will direct you to the current list of Veteran Owned Businesses on the Alabama Veterans Resource Guide website.

[VETERAN-OWNED \(savc.info\)](http://savc.info)

With over 50 businesses and organizations already listed, our impact is growing. Join us in this journey of support and recognition.

## SAVC Minutes June 18, 2024 Meeting

**Jim Jeffries provided breakfast**

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order:** President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. –32 in attendance - Location: Saucy Q BBQ.
  - 2. Opening Prayer & Pledge:** Rev. Michael Austin & Jim Jeffries.
  - 3. Introduction and welcome** to new attendees, Lou Lartigue
  - 4. Newsletter & Minutes, Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary:** Minutes for the May meeting were mailed in the newsletter. Nine snail mail newsletters and 550 emails. Minutes approved as read.
  - 5. Treasury & Grant Presentations, Tom Schwarz:** A \$300 Grant for a police escort to the Memorial Day Flag Relay, a \$300.00 grant to Warrior Legacy Ranch, and a Grant to the American Legion Retreat.
  - 6. Navy & Veterans News:** Pete Riehm reported on Memorial Day Activities.
  - 7. Current Veterans Activities and & AL News:** Jim Jeffries reported on the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter meeting at Acadia Restaurant in Silverhill. The State Convention, Alabama War Memorial is nearing completion, and ADVA donated to its restoration. Jeffries announced Col Frank Wendling, Univ So Al, head of Veterans Alumni Asso. Reported that USA Will honor Veterans as well as American Legion on Nov 2 at South Alabama's football game.
  - 8. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation:** Pat Downing, 4003 internments, 2 open caretaker positions.
  - 9. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, Pat Downing:** BMP—July 4th celebration fireworks, Aug 31, Living History Crew Drill. Teak is still available. The Teak Deck Dedication will be on Thursday, a new ramp is being installed, and the crew is painting the ship. Downing told why the State Veteran Home was named after Col. Robert L Howard.
  - 10. Alabama Dept. of Veteran Affairs:** Admiral Kent Davis thanked SAVC for donating to ADVA Conference. Admiral Davis reported on the Grant awarded to Troy University, their project Mobile National Cemetery, and the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition, 1, which is similar to SAVC. benefits increase for dependents scholarships effective July 1, Sgt Maj Adkins State Veterans home near completion – Grand Opening Sept 13. More info on the PACT Act, 3 more medical conditions added, State War Memorial renovation project near completion, Sissie Louise reported on the conference (SAMHSA) Prevention of Suicide she attended and will have more information later. Admiral Davis reported on state legislature bills.
- Guest Speaker:** Jim Jeffries spoke on the American Legion retreat.
- Topics of Interest & Upcoming Events: Lou Lartigue:** Teresa Taylor gave an update on Vets Recover's official opening.
- Patrick Jump reported that the Warrior Legacy Ranch will host the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Wall of Remembrance in Robertsedale from Aug. 22 to 25.
- Good of the Order-Close**—meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.  
Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary