



# South Alabama Veterans Council

An organization for all people, to serve all veterans.

A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations working together to further the cause of Veterans in the South Alabama area



Lou Lartigue  
251-471-4322  
Council President

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Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain  
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Pete Riehm  
251-442-4349  
LNO/MC

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

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

**NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- August 15, 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:



*"This summer is shaping up to be the hottest we have had in a long time. I hope we are doing our buddy checks to make sure all are OK and staying cool as possible.*

*We have had some busy and informative meetings in the past three months, and we are busy trying to bring you all the Veteran news we can gather. We are always interested in ways we can make our meeting more informative and meaningful so let us know what you want to hear. Fran does a great job with our newsletter but if you want to see some particular subjects or information, let us know.*

*We have a full agenda for our 15 August meeting and look forward to seeing you there."*

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

### Chaplains Corner:



*Good morning!*

*It's A prayer for our Nation;  
Read Proverbs 33:12*

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance."*

*One nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all...*

*Father in the mighty name of Jesus Christ we come before you humbly asking you to bless this Nation. Help us to love, respect, and treat each other with common human dignity. It doesn't matter what color the skin is, all of our blood 🩸 is red. Help us focus on the contents of the character, instead of pigmentation of the skin.*

*After all, there's only one True Race.*

**"THAT'S THE HUMAN RACE"**

*In Jesus' Name Amen!*

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,  
Chaplain SAVC*

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR  
2023 VETERAN OF THE YEAR  
August 1 – August 31



**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

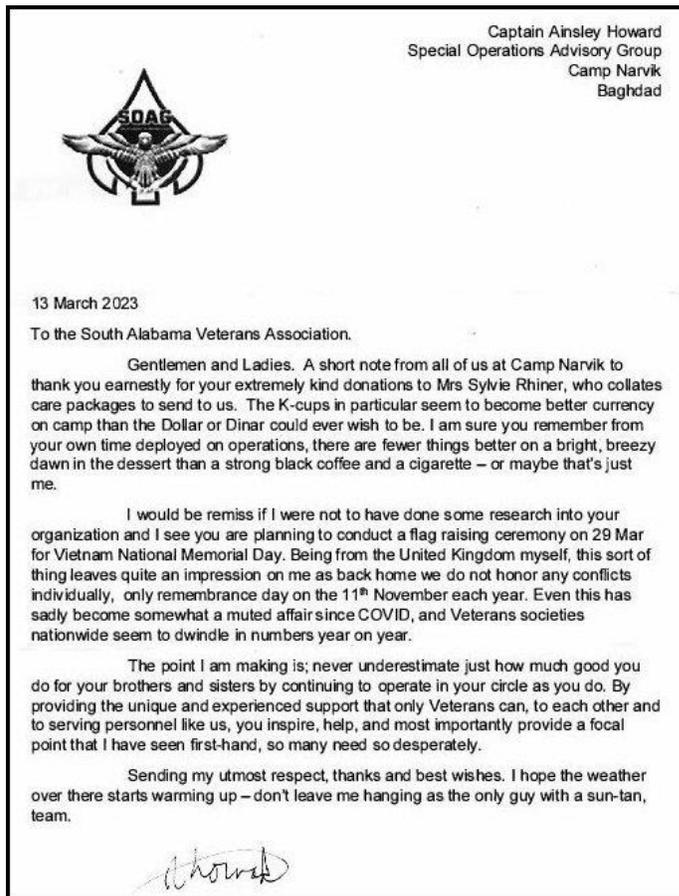


**Dixie Rear Detachment**

*One of our adopted units asked us to share the name of some of our contributors to thank them personally. They wrote you a very sweet letter that I am sharing with you.*

*We sincerely appreciate your steadfast support, as you know better than most that our care packages and support mean a lot to our military service members.*

*Thanks again,  
Sylvie Rihner D.R.D*



To make a donation to Dixie Rear Detachment:

- (251) 463-0033
- [dixiereardetachment@gmail.com](mailto:dixiereardetachment@gmail.com)  
Website  
<http://dixiereardetachment.com/>  
[Facebook](#)

## Congressional Gold Medal

On Nov. 23, 2011, President Barack Obama signed the law to award all Montford Point Marines with the Congressional Gold Medal. The gold medal, authorized by Public Law 112-59 was awarded to the Montford Point Marines in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country during World War II.

## Leon McLemore posthumously awarded Congressional Gold Medal



In a special ceremony Sunday, an Alabama man was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian honor.

## [Leon McLemore posthumously awarded Congressional Gold Medal \(wsfa.com\)](http://www.wsfa.com)

## WHO IS A MONTFORD POINT MARINE?

They are the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps after President Franklin Roosevelt issues an Executive Order establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission in June 1941. The recruits trained at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, NC from August 26, 1942 until the camp was decommissioned on September 9, 1949.

The largest number of black Marines to serve in combat during WW II took part in the seizure of Okinawa, with approximately 2,000 seeing action.

The Marine Corps was slow to carry out integration orders, but they deactivated Montford Point as a segregated training facility in September of 1949 and started sending black Recruits to training at Parris Island and San Diego. The split command had produced over 20,000 new Marines over the years at Montford Point.

## The Montford Point Marine

**Association (MPMA)** is a nonprofit military veterans' organization, founded to memorialize the legacy of the first African Americans to serve in the [United States Marine Corps](http://www.usmc.mil). The first African American U.S. Marines were trained at [Camp Montford Point](http://www.montfordpointmarines.org), in [Jacksonville, North Carolina](http://www.jacksonville.com), from 1941 to 1949.

The organization supports educational assistance programs, veterans programs, and community services, with an emphasis on improving the social conditions of the growing population of military veterans who are disabled or senior citizens.

Membership in the nonprofit organization is open to veterans and active members of all branches of the [U.S. Armed Forces](http://www.army.mil) regardless of race, creed, or national origin. The MPMA also hosts the MPMA Ladies Auxiliary. Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary is open to wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers of members or former members of the United States Armed Forces.

## MONTFORD POINT MARINE MEMORIAL

The Montford Point Marines Memorial is dedicated to the legacy of nearly 20,000 African-Americans who served in the Marine Corps from 1942 - 1949, but trained in a segregated training facility know as Montford Point Camp, Jacksonville, NC. The memorial tells the story through architecture and sculpture. The memorial is located within the LeJeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, NC.

[National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. - Memorial \(montfordpointmarines.org\)](http://www.montfordpointmarines.org)

## The Montford Point Marine Asso. (MPMA)

National President CW05 Dr. **James T. Averhart** was the [Guest Speaker at the July 18, 2023 meeting of the SAVC](http://www.savc.org).



**CW05 James T. Averhart**, LtCol Lou Lartigue USA (Ret), LtCol Janice Mitchell, President MPMA Chapter 33, MGySgt Cynthia L. House, MPMA Chapter 33

## Girls State has had a profound effect on our state leaders

The Alabama Boys State and Girls State programs have been the spawning ground for Alabama political leaders for generations. It is a marvelous civic contribution that the American Legion has sponsored for almost a century in our state.

The prominence that Boys State has played is immense. However, Girls State may very well be eclipsing the boys in this generation, given the amazing array of women who are currently leading our state.

[Steve Flowers: Girls State has had profound effect on our state leaders | Columns | newsaegis.com](#)

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**The American Legion, Department of Alabama Veterans' Retreat  
August 11-13, 2023 Camp Chandler YMCA,  
Wetumpka AL**

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## About the Oratorical Contest

[About the Oratorical Contest | The American Legion](#)

### “A constitutional speech contest”

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former presidential candidate [Alan Keyes](#), national television commentator and talk radio host [Lou Dobbs](#), and former U.S. Vice President [Mike Pence](#).

[Oratorical Competition - The American Legion Department of Alabama \(legional.org\)](#)

## Brianna Burrell is Miss Alabama 2023.

She competed as Miss Baldwin County among 41 contestants from around the state.

Burrell, from Mobile, is a graduate of the University of South Alabama, where she majored in political science. She was the first runner-up for Miss Alabama in 2022, coming in second to Fincher.

Brianna participated in last year's Mobile Bay Veterans Day events. In fact, she inspired hundreds of 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their families as the guest speaker at the Parade of Flags on Veterans Day at Battleship Memorial Park.

The yearlong reign of the new Miss Alabama starts immediately. She'll make public appearances, do charity work, speak to community groups, motivate students and more. Burrell's community service initiative is SAVE-A-STEM, which encourages engagement in science, technology, engineering and math for students of color and underfunded schools.



**Brianna Burrell - Miss Alabama 2023.**

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## Mobile Chamber of Commerce Business View

### Finding Home in Mobile: How Captain Joseph Snowden Navigated the Transition from Military to Civilian Life.

Captain Joseph Snowden, USCG, Ret. currently serves as the Executive Director of Administrative Services for the City of Mobile. He's also had a very successful military career, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard for 27 years before retiring with his family in Mobile, AL.

Learn more about his story and the circumstances that helped him transition to civilian life.

[Finding Home in Mobile: How Captain Joseph Snowden Navigated the Transition from Military to Civilian Life. - Mobile Chamber](#)

**POW/MIA CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**  
**6:00 p.m. Friday,**  
**September 15**  
**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**  
**Battleship Memorial Park**



**VETERANS HELPING VETERANS**  
**0700 - 1400**

**Saturday, September 16**  
**P L Wilson Detachment 447 MCL**  
**Second Annual**  
**Car Show & Jeep Bash**

**Veterans Helping Veterans**  
**SECOND ANNUAL**  
**Car Show & Jeep Bash**  
**On the Bay**

**SEPTMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**0700 - 1400**  
**NO PER. REGISTRATION-ENTRY FEE \$30.00**

Cars and Trucks will be judged by the Frankie Kucera Group  
 Jeeps to be judged by Jeep Clubs

**Sponsor:**  
**P.L. Wilson Detachment 447**  
**Marine Corp League**

**Co-Sponsors:**

**MOBILE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
 SERGE DAVID BURCH

**Location**  
**Battleship Memorial Park**  
 2703 Battleship Parkway Mobile, AL 36602

Any questions contact:  
 Tom Claxton 251-767-8489 Tclaxton73@gmail.com

**Any questions contact: Tom Claxton**  
**251-767-8489**  
**Tclaxton74@gmail.com**

**Battleship Memorial Park, 2703 Battleship Parkway**  
**Mobile, AL 36602**



**Public Law 116 - 67**  
**National POW/MIA Flag Act**

Public Law 116-67

**Date Approved November 7, 2019**

Full Title

*An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.*

September 16, 2023  
 Montgomery, Al  
 1100 A.M.

**2023 POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**  
 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.



Every third Friday in September is the National Day of Recognition for prisoners of war and service members who are missing in action. Ceremonies are set to take place across the county, but in Alabama, the public is invited to honor these service members Saturday morning at the state capitol.

From World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, nearly 2,000 Alabamians are still MIA and 100 are POWs.

**"You'll never know how sweet freedom can be unless you've lost it for eight and a half years."**

**EVERETTE ALVAREZ JR.**  
 U.S. Navy Commander

As a lieutenant, Alvarez was the first U.S. pilot to be shot down and detained during the Vietnam War. After being held captive for 8.5 years, he became the second longest-held U.S. POW. In 1980, Alvarez retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of commander.

SOURCE: WWW.HONORSTATES.ORG



## The Moving Wall is a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

October 12 through October 15

The Moving Wall will be coming to Serenity Funeral Home, 8691 Old Pascagoula Road in Theodore, AL from October 12 through October 15.

It is a half-scale replica that provides an opportunity for people across the country to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War. The Moving Wall replicates the design and layout of the original memorial, featuring the names of over 58,000 service members who sacrificed their lives during the war. This portable memorial allows communities to experience the emotional impact and remembrance associated with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, even if they are unable to visit the actual memorial in Washington, D.C. The Moving Wall serves as a powerful symbol of honor, healing, and remembrance for those who served and those who lost their lives in this significant chapter of American history.

For more information contact:  
Randy Granger, Director of Marketing  
Phone: (251) 653-4781

[The Moving Wall Home Page](#)

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC honors those who died in the Vietnam War. Their relatives and friends leave letters, poems, and photographs at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on this web site. We bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to your home to help remember the sacrifices of the fallen and their families.

[Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall - The Virtual Wall \(TM\)](#)

### PACT Act benefits:

#### Claims received by August 9 will be eligible for 12 months of backdated compensation

Thanks to the [PACT Act](#), millions of Veterans who were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances are now eligible for VA health care and benefits.

While there is no deadline to apply for PACT Act-related benefits, there is urgency. 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.

VA facilities are hosting a nationwide Summer VetFest in July to encourage veterans to apply today. The VetFest will include more than 50 events across the country to inform Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors about the PACT Act. These events will be casual summer gatherings, featuring Veterans, their families, Veteran advocates, and the VA health care and benefits professionals who serve them.

Many of these events will also feature food and music, as well as VA staff who are ready to personally help Veterans apply or submit an intent to file, get screened for toxic exposures, or even apply to come work at VA. For Veterans that cannot attend a local event, [VA.gov/PACT](#) is a one-stop shop to learn about and apply for PACT Act-related care and benefits. They can also apply by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

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### VA has processed 425,000 PACT Act claims since law enacted

By -MATTHEW ADAMS  
STARS AND STRIPES • July 26, 2023

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has processed roughly 425,000 benefits claims for illnesses related to toxic exposure since the PACT Act was signed into law last year, agency officials told senators on Wednesday.

The law seeks to provide an easier path to health care and benefits for veterans who served near open-air burn pits, which were used throughout the 1990s and the post-9/11 wars to burn garbage, jet fuel and other materials. Veterans diagnosed with cancer, respiratory issues and lung disease at young ages have blamed exposure to the toxic fumes from these pits, but the VA contended for years that there wasn't sufficient evidence to support their claims.

Additionally, the PACT Act expanded health care eligibility to post-9/11 combat veterans and added 23 conditions related to burn pits and other toxic exposures to the VA's list of service presumptions.

[VA has processed 425,000 PACT Act claims since law enacted | Stars and Stripes](#)

## Japanese-American Soldiers Were Once Used As 'Bait' To Train Attack Dogs On Mississippi Island

By - ALLEN FRAZIER

THE SUN HERALD • July 24, 2023



Some of the Cat Island dogs enjoy chow time at their hastily constructed kennels. (National Park Service)

(Tribune News Service) — Billed as a "secret mission" during World War II, the U.S. military used Japanese-American soldiers as "bait" in a failed attempt to train attack dogs on a Mississippi Gulf Coast island.

After only four months, the Cat Island Training Center and the experiment were abandoned. A more successful experiment was later conducted on the island which paired dogs and pigeons to be used as messenger teams.

Military working dogs continued to play an important role as sentries, messengers and even attack dogs throughout the rest of the war. Many of the dogs trained on Cat Island, as well as the soldiers used as bait, would travel to Africa and Italy with the fabled 442nd Regimental Combat Team to fight the Axis.

*The mission of the Nisei on Cat Island remained classified and unknown to the world for decades. Not until 2010 did President Barack Obama award the entire 442nd, including the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion and those at Cat Island, the Congressional Gold Medal for their service.*

READ THE FULL ARTICLE:

[Japanese-American soldiers were once used as 'bait' to train attack dogs on Mississippi island | Stars and Stripes](#)

## AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER

Antiterrorism Awareness Month	Month of August
Air Force Day	Sept. 18
Coast Guard Day	Aug. 4
Purple Heart Day	Aug. 7
U.S. Department of Defense Birthday	Aug. 10
Agent Orange Awareness Day	Aug. 10
Navajo Code Talkers Day	Aug. 14
National Airborne Day	Aug. 16
Marine Corps Reserve Birthday	Aug. 29

## VETS RECOVER COMMUNITY SERVICE Historic Oaklawn Cemetery



Vets Recover  
**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

When  
July 27th, 8-10am

### Where

Oaklawn Cemetery  
1800 Holt Rd  
Mobile, AL 36617

Thank You John, and his crew as well as USMC Carol Martin, and Steven Poole for volunteering.

## ★ CONGRATULATIONS ★

Valentino Obregon, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 864 Treasurer and Chapter Chaplain.

*Wait for it...*

*Matthew McConaughey To Lead  
'The Rivals of Amazonia King' -*



ALABAMA  
VETERANS RESOURCE

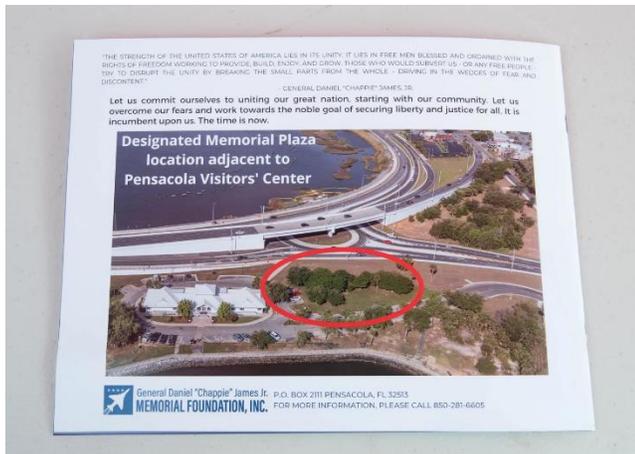
We are creating a Veteran Owned Business List in partnership with the SAVC and Scuttlebutt Radio Network. Please register if you are a VOB or an organization helping veterans/military and share with other Veteran business owners. This effort aims to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses.

# New Pensacola Bay bridge named in honor of General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr.

Gregg Pachkowski - Pensacola News Journal  
 Imags credit to: Gregg Pachkowski / Gregg@pnj.com



Project literature displayed during the General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Bridge naming and Memorial Plaza groundbreaking ceremony in Pensacola on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.



Project literature displayed during the General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Bridge naming and Memorial Plaza groundbreaking ceremony in Pensacola on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.



Project literature displayed during the General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Bridge naming and Memorial Plaza groundbreaking ceremony in Pensacola on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

## GENERAL DANIEL "CHAPPIE" JAMES

ALWAYS PENSACOLA'S HOMETOWN PRIDE,  
 AN AVIATOR'S MOST RESPECTED GUIDE.  
 OUR NATION'S BEST KNOWN 4 STAR GUY,  
 TAUGHT US ALL BY EXAMPLE HOW TO FLY!

WITH GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS SET TO HIGH,  
 PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL YOU CAN REALIZE.  
 WITH DETERMINATION AND SELF-CONFIDENCE,  
 YOU TOO MAY ATTAIN HIS SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

*Joe McCormack*  
 JOMAC - AF 9-Level Protege

## BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

A collection of poems by

*Joe McCormack*

JOMA - Poetry in Action

### BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

EVENT PROGRAMS

SAMPLE SELECTIONS

(FROM JOMAC COLLECTIONS)

### BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

GLORY - HONOR - VALOR - DIGNITY

BATTLESHIP ALABAMA MEMORIAL PARK

COMING ATTRACTIONS

### BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

HISTORY'S MONUMENTS ON DISPLAY,  
 CEREMONIES IN A DIGNIFIED WAY -  
 SELF-GUIDED TOUR BESIDE THE BAY,  
 WHERE THOUSANDS ENJOY EACH DAY.

BATTLESHIP ALABAMA & SUBMARINE DRUM,  
 ARE TWO ATTRACTIONS OUTDONE BY NONE.  
 AMPHIBIOUS TOUR OF MOBILE, RIVER & BAY,  
 AN ADVENTURE OF FUN CONDUCTED ALL DAY.

JOMAC

GLORY - HONOR - VALOR - DIGNITY

DISPLAYING THE FLAGS OF GLORY,  
 ALONG ALL THE PATHS OF HONOR.  
 SOME WRAPPED IN A QUILT OF VALOR,  
 ALL REMEMBERED IN HIGHEST DIGNITY.

JOMAC

*Joe McCormack*  
 JOMAC - Poetry in Action

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

### BATTLESHIP ALABAMA MEMORIAL PARK

WITH MEMORIALS FOR ALL TO SEE,  
 THE SACRIFICES TO ENSURE LIBERTY.  
 NOW TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED,  
 AND TO THANK FOR FREEDOMS PRESERVED.

JOMAC

AS THE FUTURE ALWAYS HAS IN STORE,  
 MANY NEW IDEAS AND PLANS TO EXPLORE.  
 PERHAPS A CHAIR-LIFT TO COME ABOARD,  
 AND "ZIP-LINES" TO RETURN TO SHORE.

JOMAC

MOBILE MEMORIAL  
GARDENS CEMETERY  
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



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



**USS ALABAMA**  
Battleship Memorial Park

Own a piece of WWII history.



For more information visit:

<https://www.ussalabama.com/teak-deck-project/>



**South Alabama  
Veterans Council**

A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations working  
together to Further the Cause of Veterans in the South Alabama area

### South Alabama Veterans Council Minutes

#### July 18, 2023 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with 49 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. Chief Jason Lewis (Ret) USN will be our guest speaker at the August meeting.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tom Schwarz - hat collected \$108.00, 3 grants, stamps.

**GRANTS:** Grant presented to Infinite Opportunities Nikki Jackson, and Forging a Difference, Gerry Gardner; John 9:3 Foundation, JD Drinkard.

**VSO Report - Jim Jeffries** reported on American Legion District 33, reported on the new American Legion Program "Yellow Hammer College", and the upcoming Veterans Retreat Program.

**Willie Dunning:** Mobile County American Legion Commander reported on grant money available.

**ASVMC- Col Pat Downing** – Reported on State Board of Affairs, 3548 internments at the cemetery, Dept Vet Affairs appropriated \$7-million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to support mental health programs and services for veterans.

**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.

**Veterans Memorial Recovery Team – Fran/Neil - Vets Recover** has scheduled a clean-up day on July 27.

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

**Veterans Recovery Resources: John Kilpatrick** - If you would like a tour, call and they will set it up.

**92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Buffalo Soldiers – Eddie Irby, Jr.** - McFadden, 98 YO Buffalo soldier passed away, there will be a special POW/MIA program at the Library on Sept 15, Eddie will be at St. Austin Cemetery on Sept 16, 92<sup>nd</sup> starting a Podcast 97th Division aired at a studio in Prichard-on July 20 from 4pm-5pm on YouTube.

**Guest Speaker- Lt Col Janice Mitchell introduced the guest speaker CWO5 Dr. James Everhart.** Everhart spoke on the history of the Montford Point Marines, the mission of the Montford Point Marines Association's Mission as well as the recent presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Leon McLemore posthumously.

**DAV Chapter 35 – Flynn Christian** – Reported on the PACT Act, the DAV Auxiliary Junior Organization age 3-17. (State Rep is Leon Groves from the Mobile area).

**John Joe Dec** – DAV national convention in Atlantic City in August.

**Gentiva Hospice –Upcoming Birthday July 31<sup>st</sup> for 103 YO USAF Veteran Mr. Spires.** Gentiva Hospice is looking for a Veterans group to give final rights to Veterans on Hospice

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

Fran Barber  
Secretary, SAVC  
July 18, 2023