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Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain 251-391-8176

SAVC e-mail: <a href="mailto:support@savc.info">support@savc.info</a>

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

NEXT SAVC MEETING – Tuesday, August 20, 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:**

"The Summer is moving on with a lot of heat and rain, but we have all survived as always. As always, I hope you have been doing your "Buddy Checks" because it is important in these hot and humid days. We have had an active July, and our August is looking just as active.

Our July meeting was great and productive. August promises to be as productive. We have some very important presenters and have some SAVC announcements that will be made. I encourage you to attend to be a part of the future of the SAVC." Lou Lartigue, President, US Army LTC (Ret) South Alabama Veterans Council

#### THE SAVC INVITATION

A PLACE FOR THOSE WHO CARE, GATHER, DISCUSS, PLAN & SHARE. ALL THE WHILE WORKING TOGETHER, ALLOW THE BEST TO BECOME BETTER.

WITH EGOISM LEFT AT THE DOOR, ALL WELCOME TO HAVE THE FLOOR. NO DUES OR FEES IN STORE, INVITED TO ACTION AND MORE.

A TREASURY NEXT TO NONE, SOMEHOW AGENDA GETS DONE. DIVERSE GROUP FOR EVERYONE, KNACK TO MAKE HARD WORK FUN.

FIND THE JOY AND PEACE OF SERVING, VETS, THEIR FAMILIES WITH BURDENS. HELP OTHERS WITH HOPE TO SURVIVE, FIND REAL REASON TO BEING ALIVE!

e we Cormock JOMAC - Poetry in Action



# Chaplains Corner:

Greetings everyone!

Read Romans 8:18

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

There are peaks and valleys in this journey called life, and, like it or not, some days will be better than others. One day everything is going well, and we feel like we're on top of the world. The next day it seems like everything is going wrong, and our emotions are stretched to the limit trying to cope with life's challenges. Praise God In the Name of Jesus, Who gives us hope and reassurance that our bad days don't compare to what's to come. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

So remember, none of this stuff compares to what God has in store for us in the life that is to come. *In the Name of Jesus, Amen!* 

*In the Name of Jesus, Amen!* 

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin Chaplain, SAVC



# MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS **COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE** 2024 PATRIOT OF THE YEAR

The highlight of the Mobile Veterans Day observance is the presentation of the Patriot of the Year award. The award is presented at a luncheon where a nationally recognized patriot is honored. The award recipient, who also serves as the Grand Marshal of the Veterans Day parade, is the principal speaker at the Veterans Day luncheon.

Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia USMC (Ret)



Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia is the former Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC). Designated as the U.S. Armed Forces senior ranking Noncommissioned Officer, his tenure spanned from October 2011 through December 2015. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to two Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey and Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, and three Secretaries of Defense, Leon Panetta, Chuck Hagel, and Ashton Carter, on all matters involving joint and combined total force integration, utilization, health of the force and joint development for enlisted personnel and military families.

Born in New Orleans, La., in April 1961, SgtMaj Battaglia joined the Marines in September 1979. Over 32 years, he has served at every level of leadership, ranging from fire team leader to Infantry Platoon Commander, Drill Instructor, Battalion and Regimental Sergeant Major, Royal Marine Exchange, and Combatant Command.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with Combat "V" device, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal x 2, Navy Achievement Medal x 3, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He holds a <u>Bachelor of Scien</u>ce in Liberal Arts concentrated in Psychology and Business Management. Battaglia was honorably retired from the United States Marines on 31 August 2016, having served nearly 37 years of active duty service.

# 2024 Veteran of the Year Nominations **NOW OPEN**

The award will be presented at the Honors Luncheon at Fort Whiting National Guard Armory on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, 2024.

#### Nominations should be mailed to:

Col. Steve Carey, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day **Commission President** P.O. Box 2187 Mobile, AL 36652

#### PRESS RELEASE:



For Immediate Release Aug 1, 2024

Patrick H. Downi Colonel, US Army (Retired) Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission Patriot of the Year and Veteran of the Year Committee Chairman 251-751-6619 pdowning@southalabama.edu

2024 Veteran of the Year Nominations NOW OPEN

Mobile, AL: Nominations are now open for the 2024 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year Award. Nominations will be accepted by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission until August 26, 2024, at midnight.

#### Award Criteria:

- 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 their 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.
- Must be a Mobile Bay Area resident, including Mobile and Baldwin Counties of Alabama.
- 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 Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, 2024.

Nominations should be mailed to:

Col. Steve Carey, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission President P.O. Box 2187

Mobile, AL 36652

\*The nomination will be valid for three years

# **August Dates to Remember:**

August	
Antiterrorism Awareness Month	Month of August
Coast Guard Day	Aug. 4
Purple Heart Day	Aug. 7
U.S. Department of Defense Birthday	Aug. 10
Agent Orange Awareness Day	Aug. 10



## South Alabama Veterans Council VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

## Jerry Cherne CWO-3, United States Marine Corps (Retired) (One-each, olive drab, Marine Corps issue)

"My simple message is do all you can to take care of our veterans and their families and keep their memories alive. Semper Fi Y'all", Jerry Cherne

Jerry is a member of multiple VSO's, but his primary involvement is with the Marine Corps League where he has served both locally and as a state officer including multiple tours as Department (state) Commandant.

Jerry Cherne enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1968, and off he went to Boot Camp, Infantry Training, and Radio Operator School. He must have done something right because he was immediately awarded an all-expense paid trip to South Vietnam.

In Vietnam, he was temporarily assigned to Communications Company and later to his permanent assignment with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. We were based at Vandergrift Combat Base (VCB) in Quang Tri Province, from which we conducted various operations.

On one of his early ops, they were hit by mortars; Jerry took some small fragments in his hands, wrists, and lower arms and another piece in his (as Forrest Gump would say) "buttocks". Weeks later, he returned to his unit; they were between ops and apparently had too much time on their hands because he was welcomed back with signs such as "CYA" and guys running around with their hands over their" buttocks" yelling, "Cover your ass." They thought it was funny.

Most of you have heard of or seen the movie about Hamburger Hill. This was part of Operation Apache Snow. The Army assaulted Hamburger Hill and suffered horrendous casualties, but they performed admirably. Jerry's unit was also part of this operation but was a good distance away, acting as a blocking force. The Army did the heavy lifting on that one.

Returning from Vietnam, he was assigned to Camp Lejeune and, after about 8 months, volunteered to go back to Vietnam. Arriving in Okinawa, they were assigning most Marines who had already been to Vietnam to units in Okinawa, but he didn't spend much time there because he kept getting assigned to Navy ships for three months at a time, where they spent most of their time cruising up and down the coast of Vietnam as a reactionary force.

Jerry made a career in the Marine Corps, working his way up to Gunnery Sergeant (E7). He then applied for and was accepted into the Warrant Officer program. He retired as a CWO-3, and is very proud that he was promoted nine times during his 20-year career.

During his twenty-year career besides Vietnam, he was stationed at Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, NC, Beaufort, SC, 29 Palms, CA, and a total of 7 years in Okinawa. He was also assigned to Inspector-Instructor duty in Mobile, AL, with 4<sup>th</sup> Force Recon. While in Mobile from 1978 – 1982, he met and married Roberta, his wife of almost 45 years, and has resided in the Mobile area since 1978. Jerry gives all the credit to Roberta for "straightening my ass out".

He retired from the USMC in 1988 and has worked in telecommunications for several companies, big and small. In 2005, he began working from home, mostly providing telecom regulatory consulting services. He is now retired and enjoying the good life.







# SAVC August Guest Speaker James (JIM) F. Ellis, Jr.

Community Volunteer documenting African American Cemeteries of Mobile also with Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation.

Retired (2013): University of South Alabama International Consulting and Executive Director (2004-2019) of Study Alabama (SA/CGEED), CIEO



Jim Ellis & wife Georgeann 2018 Marker unveiling Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery

Jim will discuss the process of recording memorials in Find-a-Grave and other items related to locating, documenting, preserving, and recording Veterans in Find-a-Grave, as well as other projects they are working on related to the culture and history of Mobile.

The following information is beneficial to those interested in finding information about burials in and around the state of Alabama. For those searching for family members buried in Oaklawn and other historic cemeteries in Mobile and Alabama, we highly encourage everyone to contact their local libraries. For us in Mobile, these resources have been great partners.

Mobile Public Library Local History and Genealogy. The librarians there are great and do their best to help. The library business hours and other information is at:

https://www.mobilepubliclibrary.org/locations/local history.php (251) 494-2190 mainlhg@mplonline.org

Be sure to have all the family names, relevant dates, and as much family information as you can provide. Much of the work that has been done by community members on these cemeteries has been put on file there including burial ledgers (1931 to approx. 1970) that have been donated and copies of Probate Record maps of the cemetery.

# Community Day at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery with

Vets Recover and USCG—CPOA.
We had a little equipment failure, but it didn't stop these folks.



Vets Recover - CEO John Kilpatrick with his crew



USCG – CPOA President – Pablo Rosa-Perez with his crew



## TS VETS Co-founder Chief Jason Lewis,

**USN (Ret)** is planning a Day of Service at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery in October. He will recruit the CPOA from Pensacola and anyone else who wants to volunteer; more information as it becomes available. Meanwhile, his VETS continue their work in Africatown.



US veterans have been instrumental in clearing a lot in Africatown, showcasing their dedication to service even beyond their military duties. Their efforts have helped in revitalizing the community and fostering positive change.







## SAVE DATE September 17, 2024 Guest Speaker: Dr. Jorey L. Krawczyn



has an extensive career extending over 50 years in law enforcement, forensic psychology, and teaching. After retiring as Chief of Police, he served three years as a Senior Police Psychologist for the US Department of Justice: ICITAP, assigned to Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, and Tanzania, and five years as the Academic Director for the US Department of State's International Law Enforcement Academy. Dr. Krawczyn is an adjunct faculty member at Saint Leo University, Department of Criminal Justice Graduate Studies, where he teaches and Chairs Doctoral Committees. He is a research analyst on suicides with Blue-Wall Institute and coauthor of "Practical Considerations for Preventing Police Suicides" (Springer Publications 2022).



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 is transforming the culture of care for Veterans, First Responders and their families.

Apply online at www.vetsrecover.org/careers

@followers #CCBHC



# ARE YOU SEEKING MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT? ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING FELLOW VETERANS?

Consider a career in Veteran Employment Services with the Alabama Department of Labor. Now hiring Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veteran Employment Representatives. Requires a 4-year degree in ANY discipline from an accredited school. Will train! Applicant must be a qualified veteran. Preference will be given to qualified disabled veterans.

Presently we have an opening in our MOBILE location for a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist!

For more information contact: Lisa Owen / 334-549-8939 / lisa.owen@alcc.alabama.gov Donal Cieutat / donal.cieutat@alcc.alabama.gov



July meeting: LTC Robert Frank Barrow gave a presentation on the MCPSS – JROTC program, Col Pat Downing presented Barrow with an SAVC Challenge Coin







# **JROTC Service Instructor Pay Scale**



	(0011 0)		
All Officer Instructors			Lo
JS-1	Bachelor's Degree	Equivalency GS 11, Step 6	
JS-2	Master's Degree	Equivalency GS 11, Step 7	
JS-3	Doctorate Degree	Equivalency GS 11, Step 8	
All Enlisted Instructors			
JS-4	Less than an Associate's Degree	Equivalency GS 10, Step 2	
J3-5	Associate's Degree	Equivalency GS 10, Step 3	
J3-6	Bachelor's Degree	Equivalency GS 10, Step 4	
J3-7	Master's Degree	Equivalency GS 10, Step 5	
JS-8	Doctorate Degree	Equivalency GS 10, Step 6	

- > JSIPS implements new authority by modeling OPM GS table as its equivalency compensation mode
- Replacing legacy pay with JSIPS decouples instructor pay from military retirement, simplifies pay calculations, and ensures no reduction in instructor
- > The employing school's physical address will be used to determine which https://dw.opm.gov/datastandards/dutystation/searchbyname
- > Current instructor's whose MIP exceeds the equivalency table will be annotated as JS-XX

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Teach Army JROTC At A High School Near You...

Over 1700 schools and 500 vacant positions across the country!

#### WHO CAN TEACH?

- Retired Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reservists
- Individuals who have honorably separated with at least 10 years of service and no more than 5 years of separation time
- Have an associate degree or higher.
- Grade requirements of E6-E9, WO1-CW5, O3-O6
- Active Guardsmen and Reservists with a letter of recommendation from their command

#### WHAT DOES TEACHING ARMY JROTC ENTAIL?

- > Teach and coach today's youth
- Take an active role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow
- Manage educational standards established by the school and the Army
- Demonstrate positive Army values to students and fellow instructors

#### WHY SHOULD I TEACH?

- Be a positive influence on the youth of today
- Give back to your community

#### Students who participate in JROTC have...

- Higher attendance
- Higher graduation rates
- Lower disciplinary rates

#### Army JROTC Instructors can help students to:

- Improve fitness
- Develop critical thinking and creativity
- Cultivate communication skills
- Improve teamwork
- Pursue careers in STEM fields

#### WHERE CAN I ...

See Instructor Vacancies?

View Eligibility And Apply?













https://www.usarmyjroto.com





# MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART

Bill Bergman is the new Commander of Alabama MOPH. He has also accepted a position on the Board of the *Military Hall of Honor* in Marion, AL.

The Alabama Military Hall of Honor was established in 1975 and stands today to honor Alabama's Military heroes. Here they are provided a permanent tribute with displays of portrait plaques of inductees and military artifacts. The museum is housed in a building that was built circa 1832 as a law office and then served as the Marion City Hall for forty years. It was moved from the courthouse square to the Marion Military Institute campus to serve as the museum building during the late 1960s.

# MOPH – Alabama/Baldwin County Chapter 2206

David Barr, new Commander of the Baldwin County Chapter MOPH 2206. Barr was an infantry soldier with the American Division in R Vietnam. He recently retired from Alabama State Docks as head of security.

# **Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs**



ADVA serves Alabama's Veterans from the moment they take off their uniform for the final time through eternity. Learn more about eligibility and preregistration for the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort:

https://va.alabama.gov/veterans-memorial-cemetery/

ATTENTION RETIRED MILITARY MEMBERS: Beginning in 2026, the old-style, blue ID cards will no longer be accepted, regardless of the printed expiration date. In order to maintain base access, please visit your nearest DEERS/ID card office to obtain a new ID. If you're unable to make it to a military installation, you can also request a new card through the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online:

https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/

UPDATE: This policy applies to ID cards of all colors (except the new white ones). They should all be updated in order to maintain base access.

#RetiredMilitary #veteransbenefits #kchawgs



# Legacy Run registration ends Aug. 11

The American Legion

JUL 31, 2024

Registration for the 2024 American Legion Legacy Run is ongoing and will end on Aug. 11. Click <u>here</u> to register as a participant or a supporter.

This year's Legacy Run will kick off in Independence, Mo., on Aug. 18 and travel 1,100 miles through Missouri, Arkansas, and Mississippi, trekking the final leg across Lake Pontchartrain Causeway into the New Orleans area. American Legion Jefferson Post 267 in New Orleans is the final stop.

Along the route, riders will experience the scenery of the American Mid-South, which includes Scenic Hwy 23 (the Pig Trail,) Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, escorting the Vietnam Wall, visiting a veteran's home and veterans cemetery, and a huge surprise that will be kept under wraps until check-in. Prior to and along the route, Riders will raise money for <a href="The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation">The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation</a> (VCF), which is in its first year of being the fundraising project of the Legacy Run.

# A LETTER FROM THE CITY OF CREOLA SUBJECT: Veterans Memorial Park

The Veterans Memorial Park in Creola, Alabama, is a work in progress. This initiative aims to honor the brave men and women from our community who have served and sacrificed in the armed forces and ensure that their legacy is preserved for future generations.

Creola has a rich history of military service, with many of our residents having answered the call of duty in various conflicts. The Veterans Memorial Park, more than just a physical space, will serve as a catalyst for reflection, education, and community gathering. It will foster a deeper appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy today, reminding us of the sacrifices made by our veterans.

We believe that the Veterans Memorial Park will not only honor our veterans but also serve as a valuable asset to the community, promoting unity and civic pride.

Things that have currently been completed:

- 1. Gazebo built.
- 2. Walkways poured.
- 3. Swings and benches installed.
- 4. Water fountain and sod installed.
- 5. Lamp post (lighting) installed.

We are looking for **memorabilia** and/or any monetary donations. This has been an ongoing project for about three (3) years, and we are now nearing the end. However, we have a shortfall of funding to purchase granite benches that will represent each branch of the armed forces.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the memorial fund can contact:

Marcy Brown, City Clerk, City of Creola P.O. Box 490 Creola, AL 36525 (office) 251 340-2052, (cell) 205 522-6373





#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

251-405-3677

https://vetsrecover.org/donate

- (a) Miguel Davis, Plant Operations Director
- mad@vetsrecover.org

Maxim is hosting a call on August 20<sup>th</sup>, presented by the Office of Integrated Veteran Care in which they will provide information on health benefits for Veteran Spouses, Dependents, and Family Caregivers.

Please send an email to the address provided on the flyer, and you will receive a meeting link. Please forward as appropriate.



Maxim is hosting an educational session about health care for spouses, dependents and family caregivers provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

- The educational session will be presented by Program Analysts from the VA's Office of Integrated Veteran Care
- Tune in to learn more about The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) and the Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program (SBHCBP) including:
  - o Eligibility criteria
  - o Enrollment
  - o Homecare services available
  - o Much more!

Date and time - Tuesday, 8/20 2pm-3pm EST

If you'd like to receive the call information please email militaryfederalhomecare@maxhealth.com ahead of time.





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.

<u>Memorial Wall of Remembrance set up in Marion Illinois</u> 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.



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)

In July Team RWB hosted a morning ruck and their Monthly Mission: The Firecracker Run. Participants ran, walked, or rucked 7.4 miles to celebrate freedom and our nation's birthday. They also took part in a local 4th of July 5k at Run N Tri Mobile.

#### **Pictures from July events**





Report by Crystal Ivy Team RWB Mobile Deputy Chapter Captain

# Purple Heart August Monthly Mission

07

WED · AUG

06:00PM - 07:16PM CT

Memorial Park, 1800 Airport Blvd, Mobile, 36606 Eagle Leader Contact: Kenneth Johnston

Memorial Park at 6:00 PM: Team RWB will complete a five-round workout with push-ups, airsquats, situps, and burpees to recognize our nation's 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients. Participants can scale the workout as needed.









#### **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)

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







NEXT SAVC MEETING
Tuesday, August 20, 8:30 a.m.
Saucy Q BBQ
1111 Government St-Mobile AL
SAVC Minutes July 16, 2024 Meeting
SAVC provided breakfast

- 1. **Welcome and Call to Order**: President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with 44 in attendance. The Location was 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:** The June meeting minutes were mailed in the newsletter, which was distributed via nine snail mail newsletters and 550 emails. The minutes were approved as read.
- 5. **Treasury & Grant Presentations, Tom Schwarz:** A \$300 Grant to Helping to Overcome.
- **6.** Navy & Veterans News: Nothing to report
- 7. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries reported on Military Order Purple Heart; Bill Bergman, new Commander; Bergman also accepted a position on the Military Hall of Fame in Marian, AL, Boys State held at Troy University and Girl State. American Legion Retreat 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Sept. David Barr, new commander of MOPH 2206.
- 8. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation: Pat Downing, 4119 internments, will soon start construction on the second committal shelter.
- 9. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, Pat
  Downing: BMP— Aug 31, Living History Crew Drill.
  Teak is still available. and the crew is painting the ship.
  10. Alabama Dept. of Veteran Affairs: Nothing to

report

- 11. VMRT: Nothing to report
- 12. Alabama Chapter 92<sup>nd</sup> Buffalo Soldiers:

Program on Aug 7 at the Library.

**Guest Speaker:** LTC Robert Frank Barrow, JROTC Program MCPSS. Col Downing presented Barrow with the SAVC Challenge coin.

Topics of Interest & Upcoming Events: Lou Lartigue: Announced upcoming events. Good of the Order-Close—meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary