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SAVC e-mail: support@savc.info

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

NEXT SAVC MEETING – Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.

Vets Recover, 1200 Springhill Ave–Mobile, AL

On the web – <http://www.savc.info> - Facebook – [South Alabama Veterans Council](#)

Presidents Corner:



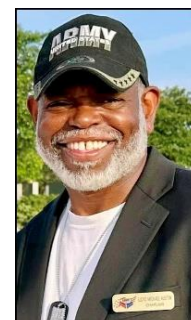
"It has been a busy and hot summer. As we move into the Fall, we have a very busy Veterans Schedule over the next several months. September is a busy month, with our meeting on 17 September at Vets Recover, 1200 Springhill Ave, at 0830 hrs, bring a new Veteran.

We said farewell to Saucy Qs after calling it home for 15 years. Elbert Winfield, his family, and his team have done a great job and been a great host. We wish them all good luck in their future endeavors. We will continue to look for a new home.

We have the POW/MIA Candle Light Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 6:00 p.m. on 20 September at the Battleship. We will be joined by the CPO Convention Attendees from the Battleship, so it will be a memorable evening event.

Remember to keep doing your "Buddy Checks," especially as we move into the Fall and Winter months."

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



Greetings everyone!

It's God's will to help us:

Read Psalm 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble."

Our God is always present. It doesn't matter what time of day or night that we need Him. God is our refuge, our strength, our strong tower, and our fortress. God will never leave us or forsake us when we are facing troubles. Unfortunately, we may be facing trouble times right now, but it's going to be all right because God is in control. There are troubles in our everyday lives with our families, society, schools, churches, relationships, jobs, politics, finances, and our health, just to name a few. But our hardest troubles come when we fail to obey God's Word, Will, and Way. However, He is still present to give us strength and lead and guide us back to His refuge.

Thank you Lord.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin
Chaplain, SAVC*



Press Release from the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission:



**Thomas G. Claxton,
US Marine Corps Veteran**

Press Release: Thomas G. Claxton is Selected as the 2024 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year

The Chairman of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, Mayor Sandy Stimpson, and the President of the Commission, Colonel Steve Carey, US Air Force (Retired), have the pleasure of announcing that Thomas G. "Tom" Claxton has been selected as the Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year for 2024. Tom was selected because of his outstanding, selfless service to our country as a United States Marine and also because of his numerous contributions to the Mobile Bay Area veteran's community and to the community in general. From June 1956 until August 1962, Tom served in the Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Sergeant.

Since he left the Marine Corps, Tom continued to serve his country and community in various capacities. Among these are serving in the P.L. Wilson Detachment of the Marine Corps League. He has served as the Junior Vice, Senior Vice Commandant, and Public Relations Officer. Throughout his tenure in the League, Tom has used his leadership and expertise in community relations to improve contact with our local veteran community at a grassroots level and beyond. Using his extensive network in the community, his efforts have resulted in improved relations with the local news media, creating improved coverage for veterans in need and increased

donations for projects such as Toys for Tots. He created and promotes a "News from the Front" program, which relays information about local soldiers and Marines from the frontlines to the headlines. He has worked with local racetracks to recognize our veterans and their sacrifices and has worked tirelessly to promote fundraising for our veterans and active-duty personnel. Additionally, he has played a pivotal part in securing a role for our veterans in the "Stars with the Shows" program, which has appeared at Bayfest and the Wharf on the Eastern Shore. Since its inception, Tom has chaired the Detachment's Veterans Helping Veteran's Kids Wishin' to Go Fishin' rodeo, which provides a day of fishing and fun for more than 30 children of local veterans who are currently or recently been deployed.

Continuously promoting our veteran's community, Tom has brought more than 190 new members into the P.L. Wilson Detachment, where he is currently serving his fourth term as the Detachment's Commandant. He was chosen as Ed's Seafood Veteran of the Year for 2023 and has also received a Quilt of Valor from that organization. Tom is also the founder of the "Veterans Helping Veterans car show, one of the largest jeep and car shows on the Gulf Coast. This annual event raises thousands of dollars for veteran organizations.

For Tom Claxton's many years of dedicated service to the Marine Corps League, he has been awarded six Distinguished Service Awards, two National Recruiter Awards, Bronze, two National Recruiter Awards, Silver, two Community Service Awards, and four Recruiter of the Year Awards. He was also selected as the Detachment's 2009 Marine of the Year, and for his service to the veterans of Alabama, Governor Bob Riley appointed Tom as an Honorary Colonel for the State of Alabama.

Tom is the co-founder and co-host of The Scuttlebutt Network radio program. The one-hour radio program and its companion website cover the Gulf Coast and the Nation on issues important to the Veterans community.

Tom has two children, Tony and Star, and two grandsons. He and his wife, Annette, currently live in Mobile, AL.



Press Release from the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission:



Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia USMC (Ret)

The Chairman of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, Mayor Sandy Stimpson, is pleased to announce that Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia, United States Marine Corps, Retired, has been selected as our Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year for 2024. Sergeant Major Battaglia (SgtMaj) was selected because of his thirty-seven years of military service at the highest levels of the United States Marine Corps and the Department of Defense, and his continuing selfless, patriotic service to the United States of America and to the State of Alabama. SgtMaj Battaglia was the second Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). From 1 October 2011 through December 2015, Battaglia served as the most senior ranking non-commissioned officer of the United States Armed Forces and principal military advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals Martin Dempsey (USA), and General Joseph Dunford (USMC). He advised the generals on all matters involving the joint and combined total force integration, utilization, health of the force, and joint development for enlisted personnel and their families. During this time, he continually supported our military services and our veterans. Prior to serving at this high level, SgtMaj Battaglia served at every enlisted leadership level in the Marine Corps, from Fire Team Leader to Sergeant Major of a Marine Corps Division. In March 1993, he attended the Royal

Marines Commando Course, graduating third in his class and earning the coveted Green Beret. Following his graduation, he served with the Royal Marines in Lymstone, England for two years.

SgtMaj Battaglia is a Gulf War and Iraq War veteran, serving in combat and receiving a Bronze Star Medal for Valor and a Purple Heart Medal, for being wounded in action. Among his other awards are the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Office of the Joint Staff Identification Badge, the US Army Parachutist Badge, 8 awards of the USMC expert rifle badge and 2 awards of the expert pistol badge.

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.*

SgtMaj Battaglia's record of steadfast, loyal service in several positions of great responsibility in service to our Nation 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.), to name just a few. SgtMaj Battaglia and his wife Lisa currently reside in Foley, AL.

A HISTORY OF VALOR & GLORY

**BLOOD, SWEAT AND FURY,
THE NEVER ENDING STORY.
FOR EVERY BATTLE SCENE,
FOUGHT BY A U.S. MARINE!**

Joe the Command
JOMAC-Poetry in Action

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

SOUTH ALABAMA VETERANS COUNCIL

Meeting Location



VETS RECOVER

TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CARE

1200 Springhill Ave

Mobile, AL

Park on the west side of the building in the vacant parking lot.

**Guest Speaker:
Dr. Jorey L. Krawczyn**



Dr. 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 co-author of "Practical Considerations for Preventing Police Suicides" (Springer Publications 2022).

Col Patrick Downing presented a SAVC Challenge Coin to guest speaker Jim Ellis and thanked him for his update on local Historic Cemeteries and his project of recording Veterans interred in Historic Oaklawn and other areas.



August 23, 2024, marked one year since Veterans Court was established in Mobile. Pictured, Judge Windom and mentors celebrating with a few others who are also involved with Veterans Court. Thank you, Judge Windom and those working with the veterans moving forward to a clean slate.



Command Sgt Maj Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home!

Grand opening ceremony and tour...

To RSVP for the dedication ceremony on September 13, click here -->

<https://einvitations.afil.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=903934&k=oB6141007853>

JOIN THE TEAM! The hiring process is underway for the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise. Click here to see current positions available and apply today! -->

https://benniegadkins.appone.com/menu_m.asp



Dr. Tonya Butler, Team River Runner & Dakota Barker CVMA 28-6 receive SAVC Grants for veterans helping veterans



South Alabama Veterans Council VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

Jim Jeffries, U S Army

Jim Jeffries' military career was marked by leadership roles. He served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967 and spent an additional four years in the Army Reserves. After completing basic training and earning the MOS designation as a Signal Support Specialist, Jeffries was stationed in Germany as a member of the 34th Signal Battalion in the 7th Corps. TDY assignments included the 3rd Infantry Division Football Team and the 7th Army Rugby Team. His leadership was further recognized when he was selected as co-captain of the 1966 Marine League championship, a testament to his skills and dedication.

Prior to his service with the army, Jim graduated from the University of Missouri, where he attended as a scholarship athlete playing football under Coach Dan Devine. Graduate studies include coursework at the Univ of Maryland, Truman University, and Vanderbilt University. After his active-duty service, Jim coached football for conference champion Brookfield (MO) High School. He then changed careers and was employed for twenty-eight years by Kraft Foods-Nabisco, rising in the company to be the Worldwide Vice President of Ingredient Sales. In recognition of his valuable contributions, Jeffries received the highest corporate honor, the Kraft Merit Award.

Retiring to Fairhope in 2004, Jim ceased to be a mere card-carrier and began his dedicated involvement in the American Legion, first as a member, officer and Commander of Post 199 then District 33 Commander and Senior Vice Commander, American Legion Department of Alabama.

Other affiliations with veterans organizations include the Marine Corps League, Air Force Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Mobile Council of the Navy League. Jeffries is also a member of the Rotary Club of Fairhope, where he has been designated a Paul Harris Fellow and received the L. E. Rockwell Memorial Meritorious Service Award. In 2015, he received the Community

Leader Award from the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce. Jim is at the forefront of regional and local groups that provide support for our active military members of the armed services as well as local veterans. Jeffries was the driving force behind the creation of the Cemetery Foundation for the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort. He serves on the Advisory Committee for the South Alabama Veterans Council.

Numerous veterans organizations, governmental agencies, and civic groups have recognized his untiring efforts on behalf of American military personnel, past and present. Among the most distinguished are the U.S. Department of the Army Freedom Team Salute Certificate of Appreciation and the State of Alabama Governor's Veteran of the Year Award. (American Legion). Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year 2015. The Marine Corps League's Associate of the Year Award, 2013 Fairhope Veteran of the Year, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 864 Citizen of the Year. Other awards include numerous certificates of appreciation and the Alabama National Guard Distinguished Sphere of Influence Award.



HOPE AND COMFORT

SERVING YOUR COUNTRY FAR FROM HOME,
MISSION DEMANDS RULE OUT THE PHONE.
SPECIALIZED TEAMS WHO RULE THE NIGHT,
STAR LIGHT SCOPE ENHANCES YOUR SIGHT.

CHALLENGES, DANGERS, UNCERTAINTY YOU FACE,
WITH A HEARTBEAT IN HIGH GEAR AS IN A RACE.
SHORT-TIMER CALENDAR KEEPS TRACK OF THE PACE,
A HOPE TO GET HOME TO THAT COMFORTABLE PLACE.

Joe Mac Colman
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

National POW/MIA Recognition Day September 20, 2024

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities.

No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Since 1999, the POW/MIA Accounting community has created a poster commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The annual edition of the poster continues to honor this tradition.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 MONTGOMERY, AL

A ceremony to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on the South Lawn of the Alabama State Capitol at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

The ceremony will honor and remember the brave men and women who endured the hardships as Prisoners of War and the Missing in Action who are still unaccounted for, and pay special recognition to their families who bore the cost of war.

The ceremony will include raising the POW/MIA Flag, patriotic music, a wreath-laying ceremony, and the playing of Taps. Traditionally held on the third Friday in September, it was moved to Saturday to accommodate and encourage public attendance.

REMEMBERING

AMERICAN VETERANS FOUGHT MANY A FIGHT,
PRESERVING OUR NATION AND EVERY RIGHT.
IN ORDER THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE FREE,
AMERICAN VETS FOUGHT FOR OUR LIBERTY.

THE REST OF US SHOULD NEVER FORGET,
OF JUST HOW MUCH WE DO OWE THE VET.
WHO BORE THE MANY STRUGGLES AND STRIFE,
WITH SACRIFICES TO INCLUDE THEIR LIFE.

SOME HAVE NEVER COME HOME FROM THE WAR,
OTHERS STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.
WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO REMEMBER AND PRAY,
FOR ALL OF THE AMERICAN POW'S AND THE MIA.

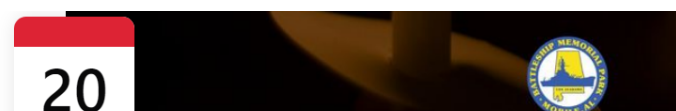
Joe Mc Cormack
JOMAC - For the SAVC Membership and
The Families of POW's & MIA

POW/MIA FLAG PROTOCOL:

On November 7, 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law, requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown on certain federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol Building, on all days the U.S. flag is flown. Previously, the flag was only flown on [Armed Forces Day](#), [Memorial Day](#), [Flag Day](#), [Independence Day](#), National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and [Veterans Day](#).



SAVC – Candlelight Ceremony, Friday, September 20, Battleship Memorial Park, Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 AT 6 PM

POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park



Linda Roloff, National Americanism Ambassador and Patriotic Instructor, announced that the Alabama VFW Auxiliary Color Guard would present the colors and Missing Man Ceremony at the POW/MIA Ceremony on 9/21/24 in Montgomery, AL. The Auxiliary Color Guard was chosen to perform the Missing Man ceremony at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis on November 10, 2024, in celebration of Veterans Day.

The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations, and members are relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict. Nearly 470,000 members in more than 3,500 Auxiliaries nationwide, plus three foreign-based Auxiliaries, volunteer millions of hours and fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans, military service personnel, and their families.

September 14th

Veterans Helping Veterans Car Show

PL Wilson Detachment #447 Marine Corp League
Third Annual Car & Jeep Bash on the Bay
Entry fee \$30.00 - No Preregistration
All Proceeds will go to the PL Wilson's
Veterans Helping Veterans Program.



Veterans Helping Veterans
THIRD ANNUAL
Car Show & Jeep Bash
On the Bay
Location
Battleship Memorial Park
2703 Battleship Parkway Mobile, AL 36602

SEPTEMBER 14th
0700 – 1400
NO FEE-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:
GARDNER & KRAMERLY
MOBILE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MOBILE COUNTY SHERIFF PAUL BURCH
MOBILE COUNTY SHERIFF PAUL BURCH

Any questions contact:
Tom Claxton 251-767-3489 TClaxton73@gmail.com

OUTPATIENT CLINIC SERVICES

We offer integrated mental and physical health to veterans, first responders, and their families. Services include:

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

CALL TO TALK TO A VETERAN
251-405-3677




RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

VETS RECOVER CENTER
1200 SPRINGHILL AVE MOBILE, AL 36604

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
1:00-2:30 PM

SIGN UP HERE!

extension RCD VETS RECOVER USMA



Vets Recover
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

WE ARE SEEKING SPONSORS FOR PICNIC TABLES FOR OUR PATIENTS AND CLIENTS TO ENJOY!

DONATE FUNDS
You can donate funds to help us reach our goal of purchasing 10 picnic tables at \$300 each for a total of \$3000.

DONATE PRODUCT
Instead of funds, you can donate picnic tables! We will gladly accept the finished product for use.

THANK YOU
As a thank you, we will acknowledge your sponsorship with a plaque on the table that displays your name.



SAVC, American Legion District 33, Mike Dow, and John Joe Dec stepped up to sponsor a picnic table for the patients and clients to enjoy at Vets Recover.

9/11 Stair Climb Hosted by USA ROTC



9/11 Stair Climb
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
0600-0700 AM
STANKY FIELD
70 JAGUAR BLVD MOBILE

The events on September 11, 23 years ago changed our country forever and deeply affected our military and veteran community, launching the longest war our nation has ever faced. Team Red, White & Blue is dedicated to honoring the memory of the victims and ensuring this day is not forgotten.

- Additional INFO: Climb 2,200 stairs – the number of stairs first responders climbed on their way up the 110-story World Trade Center to save civilians.
- Challenge yourself to climb 2,200 stairs with a 45 lbs ruck. That's the average weight of the gear firefighters wear.
- Options to scale include dividing the climb with a buddy (or 2 or 3)

September

September - National Service Dog Month

September is National Service Dog month. Learn more...

LINK - *Organizations that provide service and therapy dogs to military veterans*

September 2, 2024 - VJ (Victory over Japan) Day

September 2, 2024 - Labor Day

September 11, 2024 - Patriot Day

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Learn more...

LINK - *9/11 Day, organizers of September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance*

September 18, 2024 - Air Force Birthday

September 20, 2024 - POW/MIA Recognition Day

A time set aside to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families. Learn more...

September 29, 2024 - Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

A day set aside to honor the mothers and families of our nation's fallen service members. Learn more...

LINK - *Organizations that support Gold Star Families*



USCG – CPOA President – Pablo Rosa-Perez with his crew
 In the trenches at Historic Oaklawn last Wednesday.

RETIREMENT ON THE HORIZON

Saucy Q BBQ has been the SAVC meeting place for 15 years. It was a hard decision, but owner Marine Elbert Wingfield decided it was time to hang up the apron. We wish him and his family the best. Thank you, Elbert, for your Patriotism.



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.



MOBILE MEMORIAL
 GARDENS CEMETERY
 MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



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

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
SOUTH ALABAMA VETERANS COUNCIL

Meeting Location



1200 Springhill Ave

Mobile, AL

Park on the west side of the building in the vacant parking lot.

SAVC Minutes August 20, 2024 Meeting
Saucy Q BBQ provided breakfast

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** V-P Pat Downing, Col USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with 47 in attendance. The Location was Saucy Q BBQ.

2. **Opening Prayer & Pledge:** Rev. Michael Austin & Jim Jeffries.

3. **Introduction and welcome—Judge Mike Windom, Mobile County Circuit Judge, Mobile County Treatment Court.** Friday, August 23, is the first anniversary of the Veterans court. The judge invited everyone to join them at 1:00 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Col. Welcomed new attendees.

4. **Newsletter & Minutes, Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary:** The July 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** :\$ 925.00 distributed, Hat collected \$184.00 .MMG monthly donation of \$30.00. August Grant to CVMA 28-6 \$300.00 Dakota Barker, Team River Runner \$300.00 Tanya Butler, Col Downing presented a challenge coin to them. SAVC \$300.00 to Vets Recover for picnic table.

6. **Navy & Veterans News: Pete Riehm** thanked Eddie Irby for his dedication to the WWII Veterans. He reported on Navy ships returning to the port and the Navy's birthday coming up in October. He also reported on the Veterans Day Parade.

7. **Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries** reported on the American Legion National Convention. The American Legion has partnered with an insurance company to provide cheaper flood insurance. VFW—At the POW/MIA ceremony in Montgomery on 9/21, the VFW Color Guard will present the colors and missing man table provided by the auxiliary. That unit was chosen to do the ceremony at the US Naval Academy and Arlington National Cemetery. VVoA 864 last man standing motion, balance in the account will go to Veterans Assistance Fund Al State Veterans Cemetery in Spanish Fort.

8. **AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation: Pat Downing**, 4158 internments, getting 2nd committal shelter, robotic mower program in working stages, National Cemetery Agency will be inspecting in early

October, number of flags retired which are used on special veterans holidays will be acquiring an additional 300 flags.

9. **USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, Pat Downing:** BMP— Teak deck completed \$8.4 million dollars, employees are painting ship, 2024 CPOA Pride event celebrating Chiefs that have made E-6, Aug 31, Living History Crew Drill

10. **Alabama Dept. of Veteran Affairs: Sissy Louise** – Sept 13, ribbon cutting new veterans home. Sept Operation We Remember Month Suicide Prevention Awareness Month – 66 schools across the state will have a flag display for every veteran who died from suicide in 2022.

11. **VMRT:** Introduced VRMT board and welcomed guest speaker Jim Ellis, Jr. Col Downing presented a SAVC challenge coin to Mr. Ellis.

12. **Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers:** Eddie Irby thanked VMRT for their work at Oaklawn.

He reported on the special Purple Heart Program.

Topics of Interest & Upcoming Events: Col Downing presented Elbert Wingfield with a plaque of appreciation and a challenge coin. Elbert thanked everyone for supporting him over the years.

Creola Veterans Park: Marcie Brown reported on the park's progress and asked for donations of military memorabilia

Vets Recover Seeking Sponsors for 10 Picnic

Tables: SAVC, Amer Legion Dist 33, Mike Dow, John Joe Dec,

Warrior Legacy Ranch Concert Aug 24, GWOT Remembrance Wall Aug 22 – 25, VSO can set up tents at no cost.

CVMA 28-6 – Dakota presented with a Challenge Coin, and he thanked SAVC for the grant it will go toward ball caps for

Veterans at different nursing homes around Mobile and Baldwin County.

P L Wilson - Veterans Helping Veterans Car Show September 14 at Battleship

Vets Recover – Lloyd Austin - Free Narcan kits available

MOAA – President John Kilpatrick reported ON State of Alabama's distribution of grants

American Legion Post 199—Tanya Butler—On October 26, AL Post 199 will hold a Resource & Suicide Prevention Fair; vendors are welcome. For more information, visit the AL Post 199 Auxiliary Facebook Page.

Mobile Chamber of Commerce – Shana Jordan working with Veteran Owned Businesses

Forging a Difference – Jerry Gardner Grant from Al Dept of Vet Affairs, new classes starting in September

– Carol Martin Appointed Parliamentarian Womens Marine Association National Headquarters

Good of the Order- September Meeting - Col

Downing reported there would be an important announcement coming up soon, where we will meet in September.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.
Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary