



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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CAPT HAL PIERCE, SPIRITUS AMERITUS SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- October 19, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q

1111 Government Blvd–Mobile AL

On the web – <http://www.savc.net/> - Facebook — South Alabama Veterans Council



Presidents Corner:

Our Veterans and Friends,
It is October with only two and one-half months left this busy year. We have seen and experienced a very busy 2021, and 2022 is stacking up to be another busy year. Progress was made, we suffered some setbacks, we "adapted and overcame", in the words of Clint Eastwood, and SAVC is moving forward.

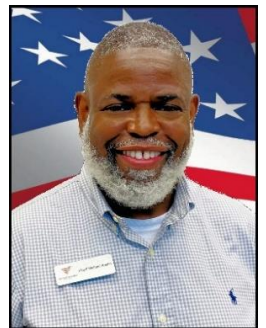
We made progress. Despite COVID, we moved forward. We poked old-COVID in the eye and had the 2021 Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute Event, which was a great success. We resumed meetings at Saucy-Q's and shut the door on COVID. We continue to plan for a run-down to 31 December, by having a great Flags of Glory on 7 November and a great Veterans Day celebration on 11 November. We did have some set-back. We lost our great Veteran and SAVC plank-holder, Bill Atkeison. We will celebrate Bill's life at the Flags of Glory on 7 November. We lost another plank-holder with the passing of CAPT Hal right as COVID hit and have not been able to celebrate his life so we plan to do that on 7 November also.

We are moving forward at full speed. Fran has accepted the position of Secretary and News Letter Editor and is doing a great job. We are starting to plan for 2022 events. Our planning group will start meeting for AFD & BSS Event on 21 May 2022. We appreciate all of our members' support

during the good and hard times and look forward to working with you all in the upcoming 2022. I know you are asking, "Why all this year-end and new year stuff when it isn't even the end of the year?" You see, we always are out front planning for the new stuff while looking over our shoulder at the past stuff and seeing how we can do better to serve our Veterans in South Alabama.

See you on Tuesday 19 Oct for our SAVC meeting at Saucy Q's.

In Support of our Vets,
Lou Lartigue
President SAVC



The Chaplains Corner:

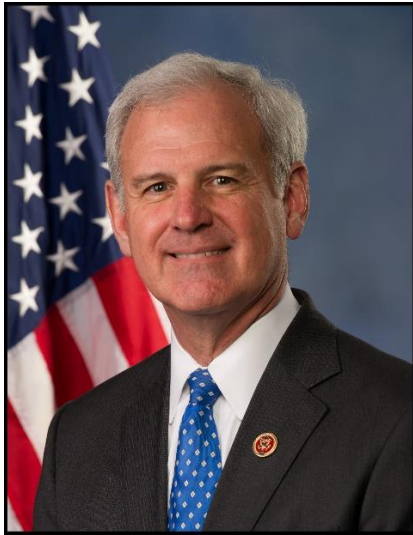
Good Morning! It's New Mercy
Read Lamentations 3:22-23: It is because of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, his compassions never fail. They are new every morning: great is his faithfulness.

Dear Lord,
Your loving kindness is new every day. May we forever trust in you with all our hearts and find rest in the shelter of your love. The very life we live comes from you alone. Bless us, O Lord, with the light of your presence, and place within us the desire to share your light so that others may come to know the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain, SAVC

Veterans Day Luncheon **Eventbrite Ticket Sales are Live!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veterans-day-luncheon-tickets-183588366747>



Bradley Byrne

Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year

The 2021 Veterans Day Luncheon will recognize Bradley Byrne for his contributions to our nation's military services and veterans support including service in the United States House of Representatives where he was a member of the Armed Services Committee.



MGySg (Ret) Cynthia L. House
Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year

Retired Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia House is the Mobile Area Veteran of the Year. Following her retirement after 23 years of service with the USMC, she became active in a number of veterans organizations including a national leader of the National Montford Point Marine Association.



September 26, 2021

Though Gold Star Mother's and Family Day isn't observed as a National, federal holiday like Memorial Day, it was declared by Congress in 1936 to be the last Sunday in September – though, at the time, it was only known as “Gold Star Mother's Day.” It was in 2011 that President Obama amended the declaration, declaring the day to include families as well as others. Today the holiday includes any immediate family member and authorizes that person to display the Gold Star Service Flag.



Comment:

“When I think of Gold Star families I think of the Sullivan family who lost five sons during WW II, when the Japanese sunk the USS Juneau, during the battle for Guadalcanal or the 31 sets of brothers names engraved on the Vietnam Memorial in DC, meaning 31 sets of parents lost two sons in Vietnam. As far as I am concerned we can't do enough to remember and honor their sacrifices.” – Col Pat Downing USA (Ret)



Veteran Owned Business

In partnership with the SAVC and Scuttlebutt Radio Network, we are creating a Veteran Owned Business List. Please register if you are a VOB or an organization helping veterans/military and share with other Veteran business owners. The aim of this effort is to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses. <https://alabamaveteransresourceguide.com/>



Thank you Major Brad Israel

for your very moving presentation on 9-11, at the Fallen Heroes Memorial. Remembering and Honoring 20 years after September 11.

The Fallen Heroes Memorial at BMP stands about 20 feet tall and about 8 feet wide with a six-sided granite base. The brown and tan bricks represent the desert camouflage uniforms of the U.S. armed forces.

The centerpiece of the monument, designed by a local artist named Casey Downing Jr., also a veteran, is a stout, flat-topped black granite hexagonal base on top of which is a bronze replica of combat boots, a helmet and dog tags arrayed around a rifle bayoneted into the granite. Historically, to mark the location of fallen soldiers on the battlefield, their comrades would bayonet a rifle into the dirt. This has evolved into a traditional symbol honoring fallen soldiers.

Engraved on one side of the monument are the names of the Alabamians killed in these wars, with space, of course, for future additions. On each of the other five sides hangs a bronze bas-relief honoring a service member in his or her dress uniform from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Twin brick pathways, a shade darker than the brickwork surrounding the monument, lead from the back of the monument like shadows to a pair of rectangular black granite towers, representing the World Trade Center's twin towers, standing side by side at about eight feet tall, and etched with a narrative describing the events of September 11 and the subsequent "Global War on Terror." The text concludes with a quote attributed to George Orwell:

People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.

Other elements of the memorial include two slabs that represent the two towers. One includes information about Sept. 11, 2001 and the other describes the War on Terror.

Nathan Cox, USMC, spearheaded efforts to raise money to build the Fallen Heroes Memorial at USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile.

Remembering a Hero:



Maj Rodney Cromer (Ret)

Former B.C. Rain Senior Army Instructor, Major (Ret) Rodney Cromer was the current President of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), an organization that recognizes a cadet from each of our high schools annually with a very special award.

Rodney fought hard to beat this unseen enemy, but ultimately lost his battle with this terrible disease. Commissioned as an Infantry Officer, Rodney was the ultimate soldier...he loved his service to the nation and was proud to wear the uniform. He retired a few years ago to enjoy fishing, photography, and sports.

He served in the United States Army for 20 + years and retired at the rank of Major. He served as Infantry and Logistics officer from platoon to Department of the Army levels, in world-wide assignments during peacetime and combat conditions, served in Operations and training staff positions at battalion, brigade and HQDA levels, served in Logistics staff positions at battalion, brigade and HQDA levels.

Cromer taught Army JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) at two inner city public high schools from 1997 through 2013. Owner and photographer at Action Image Photography. He served as a volunteer with Keep Mobile Beautiful and assisted in the planning and oversight of recycling and beautification projects in the greater Mobile, Alabama community.

THANK YOU Battleship Memorial Park

for hosting the largest event on the 20th anniversary of 9-11 in lower Alabama. The 2021 Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Walk had 546 participants who gathered at BMP to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on 9-11, and during the War on Terror.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation honors the sacrifice of firefighter Stephen Siller who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001. They also honor our military and first responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation builds mortgage-free *smart homes* for our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. The Gold Star Family Home Program, launched in September 2018, honors the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. The Foundation will provide a mortgage-free home to surviving spouses who qualify.

For seven years running, the Foundation has achieved the highest rating, four stars from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.

The following are four individuals from Alabama whose families were on the receiving end of the Stephen Siller Foundation commitment to honor our military and first responders:

Ben Tomlinson, Jacksonville, AL - Home was completed - November 11, 2014 - Sgt. Ben Tomlinson deployed twice with the United States Marine Corps. On his second tour of duty, Ben was shot by enemy fire while providing rooftop security for his team.

Billy Fred Clardy III - Huntsville Police Department, Alabama - December 6, 2019 - A 48-year-old legacy officer and decorated Army veteran, Officer **Billy Fred Clardy III**, was killed in the line of duty on December 6, 2019, while working as part of the HIDTA Gulf Coast Task Force.

David Mimm - Montgomery, AL lost his life in the line of duty while serving as a paramedic with Care Ambulance on March 1, 2020. He previously served his country as a medic in the U. S. Army, from 1984 to 1987 in the 1st infantry division out of Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Police Officer William Buechner - Auburn Police Division was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 19, 2019 after responding to a domestic disturbance call.

9-11

On Saturday, 9-11, The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was honored to host Dr. Edward A. Goodnite, Maj (Ret) USAF, DPT at the Bernheim Hall, Ban May Library in Mobile, AL. This year marks the 100th anniversary of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. One of the highlights of Dr. Goodnite's career was his 22-month tour of duty at Ft. Myer VA, where he had the honor of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. He covered the history from the beginning:

Exactly three years after the end of World War I, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia during an Armistice Day ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is considered the most hallowed grave at Arlington Cemetery, America's most sacred military cemetery. The tombstone itself, designed by sculptor Thomas Hudson Jones, was not completed until 1932, when it was unveiled bearing the description "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God." The World War I unknown was later joined by the unidentified remains of soldiers from America's other major 20th century wars and the tomb was put under permanent guard by special military sentinels.

In 1998, a Vietnam War unknown, who was buried at the tomb for 14 years, was disinterred from the Tomb after DNA testing indicated his identity. Air Force Lieutenant Michael Blassie was returned to his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, and was buried with military honors, including an F-15 jet "missing man" flyover and a lone bugler sounding taps.



DAR chapter members, Mobile, AL

First ever all-female guard shift change takes place at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNN) - There was an all-female guard change for the first time at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Leaders from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment said this is the first time this happened in the nearly 100 years of the monument.

The changing of the guard happened under the direction of Sgt. 1st Class Chelsea Porterfield, who is also the first woman to lead the tomb guards as sergeant of the guard.

On a recent autumn morning at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in @ArlingtonNatl, history was made. For the first time in the 84-year vigil, on the 30770th day of continuous guarding, an all-female guard change occurred with the 38th Sergeant of the Guard. #Tomb100 pic.twitter.com/JndxF9VVuK

— The Old Guard (@USArmyOldGuard) October 1, 2021

Why the Tomb Guard marches 21 steps at tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington?

The Tomb Guard marches exactly 21 steps down the black mat behind the Tomb, turns, faces east for 21 seconds, turns and faces north for 21 seconds, then takes 21 steps down the mat and repeats the process. (The number 21 symbolizes the highest military honor that can be bestowed, the 21-gun salute.)

FOR A FEW MINUTES, THE WORLD STOOD STILL AND WE REMEMBERED



The POW/MIA Remembrance candlelight ceremony at the Battleship Memorial Park was cancelled due to reports of threatening weather. We notified the local media of the cancellation, posted on Facebook, sent messages via email. Neil and Fran went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial just in case someone didn't get the message. A small group arrived and for a few minutes, the world stood still and we remembered.

We remembered those POW/MIA who have not returned, and the POW who returned and continued to serve our country as great Patriots.

Men like:

Jeremiah Denton, POW-Vietnam; Seymour "Si" Lichtenfeld, POW- WWII; Glen Frazier, POW WW II.



POW/MIA Ceremony

Montgomery, AL

Pictured: George Mills, a 100-year-old WWII POW who was captured by German soldiers in 1944 and liberated in 1945. He served in the 28th Infantry Division, and guest speaker U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Richard Landolt. Landolt served as Director of Operations and Cyber at U.S. Africa Command and as commander of the Amphibious Force for the 7th Fleet (Task Force 76) in Okinawa, Japan. He also served in the Pentagon as Director, International Engagement on the Navy staff.

Photography by Larry G. Carter. COL USAF (Ret)

Thank you for sharing Col Carter

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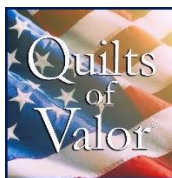


New POW/MIA flag regulation S.693

National POW/MIA Flag Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) National POW/MIA Flag Act

Public Law No: 116-67 (11/07/2019)

The bill changes the days on which the **POW/MIA flag is required to be displayed at specified locations to all days on which the U.S. flag is displayed.** (Previous law required the POW/MIA flag to be displayed only on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.)



QUILTS OF VALOR

Our Mission: to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

Do you want Quilts of Valor to cover your Hero...?

Contact Joyce Reed – QOV: (251) 634-0256

Email: lsbookworm@hotmail.com

OCTOBER DATES OF INTEREST:

October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

<https://www.rescue.org/announcement/october-domestic-violence-awareness-month>

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Military World Games

October 10th - Ms. Veteran America Pageant
October 11th - Columbus Day
October 13th - US Navy (USN) Birthday
October 26th - Day of the Deployed
October 31st - Halloween



ARMED FORCES DAY/BLUE STAR SALUTE

May 21, 2022

Armed Forces Day Mobile AL



Jerry Gardner

Blacksmith Experience - SAVC September guest speaker –Jerry Gardner, owner of the Blacksmith Experience, has turned a passion into a career and forging bonds with Veterans. To learn more about this unique experience contact Jerry at: (412) 926-2253

Email: gogardner@yahoo.com

Should You Say 'Happy Veterans Day' to a Veteran?

Veterans Day is celebrated every November 11th and is an excellent opportunity to honor and thank the servicemen and women who have served in every branch of the armed forces.

Sometimes, simply thanking someone for what they have done is all that needs to be said. Telling a veteran how much you appreciate their service, their sacrifice, and their contribution to America will encourage them and help them know that their sacrifice has not been forgotten.

When Veterans Day rolls around each year, take the opportunity to honor a vet you know. Don't let time pass you by until it's too late to thank them. ***If you're still finding it hard to figure out what to say, just remember that it's always the thought that counts***—and your friend will know when you are sincerely grateful for their sacrifice.

FLAGS OF GLORY

A week-long patriotic tribute in honor of our military service personnel and the Flag they preserve.

Please consider honoring one or more military heroes that have served or serve and help support Veteran-related causes. This year's supported program is Veterans Memorial Recovery Team.

2021

Flags of Glory at Mobile Memorial Gardens, organized with the South Alabama Veterans Council, is a week-long patriotic tribute in honor of our military service personnel and the Flag they preserve. More than 250 full-sized U.S. Flags will be placed along the cemetery's central roadway as a free drive & walk through display during the week of Veterans Day. The goal is for each Flag to be sponsored as a tribute to a Military Veteran or current Service Member. Please consider honoring one or more military heroes that have served or serve and help support Veteran-related causes as selected by the SAVC. This year's supported program is the Historic Oaklawn Cemetery restoration project.

*All Honorees will be recognized by a keepsake Laminated ID Card (for sponsors to keep afterward) attached to one of the flags. Additional keepsake recognitions will be produced for silver sponsorship levels and above as an expression of appreciation for your support and patriotism. Sponsorship levels are: Gold (\$100, up to 4 honorees), Silver (\$50, 1 or 2 honorees) & Bronze (\$25, 1 honoree). All of your contribution goes to support the selected causes.

Schedule: Opening award ceremony - 2 pm, Sunday, November 7th / Flags on display Nov. 7th - 14th
Location: Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery 6100 Three Notch Rd, 36619

Websites: www.flagsofglory.org & savic.net

2021

Gold level = \$100 (up to 4 names); Silver+ = \$75 (up to 3 names); Silver level = \$50 (1 or 2 names); Bronze level = \$25 (1 name) *Gold+ add \$25 for each additional honoree (attach a separate list with details if honoring more than six)	
List the heroes you want to honor here (please print)	
Honoree (1): Primary Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USMM	Flag Sponsor Information Your Name: _____
Honoree (2): Primary Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USMM	Street Address: _____
Honoree (3): Primary Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USMM	City _____ St _____ Zip Code: _____
Honoree (4): Primary Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USMM	Phone: _____ Email: _____
Honoree (5): Primary Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USMM	 Mail Completed Form & Check Before November 1st To: Flags of Glory - c/o Mobile Memorial Gardens, 6100 Three Notch Rd, Mobile, AL 36619
Honoree (6): Primary Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USMM	
Total contribution: (\$25) (\$50) (\$75) (\$100) (\$150) (\$180) (Make check payable to Flags of Glory) [] I plan to attend the ceremony	
In response to safety concerns and official directives, planned ceremonial activities are subject to last minute changes.	

FLAGS OF GLORY Special Tribute and Recognition November 7 @ 2:00p.m.

Bill Atkeison and Captain Hal Pierce
Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery
6100 Three Notch Rd, 36619



William "Bill" Atkeison



Capt Hal Pierce

Join us Sunday, November 7, 2:00p.m. at the Flags of Glory ceremony for a very special tribute to Bill and Capt Hal.



Commissioner Kent Davis

ADVA Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
Commissioner Kent Davis covered several topics at the SAVC September meeting:

At 10:30 ADVA staff will tour Historic Oaklawn Cemetery with Gen Gary Cooper, Col Roosevelt Lewis, Joe Buschell, and the VMRT team.

Dependent scholarship is switching to electronic online application as well as application for Veterans homes.

Backlog of Claims: There is a huge backlog of claims and appeals. The VA is on a hiring spree, a virtual hearing program set up to try to get through the backlog of appeals. VA has established a couple of remote sites in Alabama to help Veterans who have appeals with Federal VA. VSO'S used to have 48-hr review, that's been done away with. The new program, Claim Accuracy Request Pilot Program, gives a 30 day period for VSO to challenge a claim decision before having to go through full appeal.

Toxic exposure –Not limited to Vietnam, there needs to be a serious look of Gulf War, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, exposure to burn pits, etc. There are several bills before Congress getting some traction to address toxic exposure in the more recent wars.

Another topic tied to this...toxic exposure of veterans of Ft McClellan, AL, a joint base. There appears to be increasing evidence that those who served there have some chronic health issues. There is a Health Registry Act Bill before Congress to establish some presumptive conditions for veterans who served at Ft. McClellan. **Veterans need to be tuned into this, especially veterans who served in Vietnam, and other wars mentioned earlier as well as Ft. McClellan.**

Veteran suicides – Alabama is still among the worst states for Veteran suicide, especially by use of firearms. Thanks to Greg Albritton. State House, we got some extra funds from state legislature. One of the things the ADVA did was hire a full time person in headquarters Program Manager for Veteran Wellbeing, she will coordinate Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

(SMVF) and will coordinate and manage other programs that support veterans well-being, such as substance use and homeless veterans issues, AlaVetNet initiatives, and other veteran outreach services related projects or events.

Sissy Louise Moore is the new Program Manager for Veteran Wellbeing.

"I serve the ADVA, and all the veterans in the state of Alabama. I coordinate programs for veterans and their families through collaborative partnerships through government and non-governmental agencies through services and programs such as Veterans Suicide Prevention Program, and that will include substance use and veteran's homelessness issues and other veteran's services. I have a background in Psychology, communication, gerontology, and a lifetime of advocacy and experience. I look forward to working with all of you. Please call me and use me any way you can to make sure the veteran's life is better because of it." --Sissy Louise Moore

Telephone: 334-242-5077 - Fax: 334-242-5102

Email: sissylouise.moore@va.alabama.gov

Web: www.va.alabama.gov

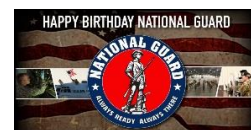


Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Suicide among service members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) is an initiative aimed to create an impactful, long-term outcome across the state as we continue fighting a stigma with mental illness.

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." — Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale turned into a spy for America during the Revolutionary War. He was patriotic to the core and believed in America as a land of opportunity. During a spy mission, he was caught. Just before the British hung him, he proudly affirmed he would do it all again for the sake of his country.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - September 18, 2021





September 21, 2021
Tour of Historic Oakland Cemetery

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Tour of Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery, an Alabama Places in Peril Site

On September 21, 2021, Veterans Memorial Recovery Team took the Alabama Department Veterans Commissioner Kent Davis, and his staff on a tour of Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery.

Pictured are: Rear Admiral W. Kent Davis, USN, (Retired) State Commissioner of the ADVA; Robert Horton, ANG (Ret), Assist. State Commissioner, ADVA; Gen Gary Cooper, USMC (Ret), Senior Advisory Board Member-VMRT; Col Roosevelt Lewis USAF (Ret) Owner Historic Moton Field; Sissy Louise Moore, Veterans Well-Being Program Manager, ADVA; Joe Buschell, Alabama State Veterans Cemetery, Spanish Fort, AL; Fran Barber, President, VMRT; Neil Bruyn, VP/Secretary, VMRT

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 28-6



Horses for Heroes
DICE RUN

October 23, 2021

Registration: Bob's Downtown Diner
5 Stops, last stop

Equine Therapy Horse Ranch

37252 Chavel Air Rd. Bay Minette, AL

Equine Therapy Group provides a horse camp for Veterans with PTSD and TBI



Veterans Day - Thursday, November 11, 2021

Veterans Day Parade – Gates open 0730, submit your application, more information forthcoming.

Registration deadline: October 15, 2021.

If you have questions please email Pete Riehm or Teresa Taylor at:

vetsdaycommission@gmail.com.



Saturday, November 6th, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

Starts at USS Alabama Battleship Park

ends at American Legion Post 250

\$10.00 and a new unopened toy per person



American Legion Post 99 Foley, AL

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Max Griffin Park, Foley, AL

November 11

10:00 a.m.

Ceremony at Post 99 following the parade

Lunch will be provided

Entertainment @ 2:00 p.m. Until

Parade Coordinator – Jay Ryan 251-228-1206

City of Fairhope Veterans Day Parade

November 6th – 10:00 a.m.

The Parade will begin and end at the Fairhope Civic Center.

Leading the parade will be

Fairhope's 2021 Veterans of the Year.

The celebration will continue on Thursday, November 11, at 4:45 p.m. in Henry George Park.

A sunset prayer service will be held at Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy, the City's Veteran's Memorial.



<https://va.alabama.gov/veterans-resource-links/>

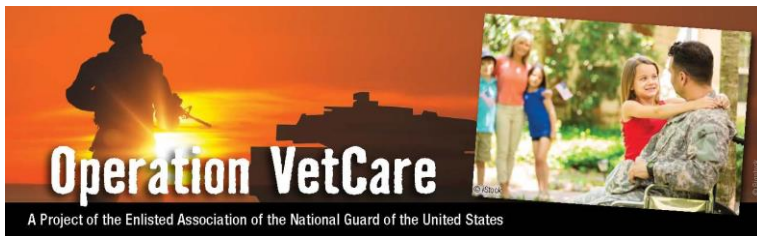
In 2020, AlaVetNet partnered with United Way/211 Connects Alabama to provide a searchable database of resources specifically for Veterans, Service Members and their families, based on residency. The website's database is comprised of government agencies and non-profits that provide services that have been vetted for legitimacy and relevance. The intent of the AlaVetNet Website is to provide Veterans, Service Members, their families, and those who serve them, with an online one-stop shop of reliable services that meet their unique needs.

Help Starts Here

<https://www.211connectsalabama.org/>

Dialing 2-1-1 connects you to a trained operator 24/7 that has access to a comprehensive database with a multitude of services in your community. By its design, the 2-1-1 system is ideally suited for serving as the initial contact point for any variety of programs. 2-1-1 is designed to assist families from all walks of life, but most importantly benefits our most vulnerable populations such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income by facilitating access to public services.

You can text for help too! Text your zip code to 898-211 and message one of the live 2-1-1 specialists for help.



For information, questions, or Concerns regarding Operation VetCare - Call 800-242-6964

Operation VetCare — a special note to veterans, military service members, and their families who need help.

Operation Vetcare is here to help veterans, military service members, and military families who face special challenges as a result of their services in all branches of the US armed forces.

Operation VetCare is a project of The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) which is the official association of the National Guard.

Because we represent every enlisted Guardsman, and because our board and staff are all current or former members of the Guard, we have decades of experience in knowing what people need when they face a crisis and how to help them.



A POST FROM FACEBOOK:

“I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the jargon we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades, such good men.”

--Author Unknown--

Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission



The Dauphin Island Veteran's Association

Two Vietnam Veterans, Terry Barnard, USN and Bill Dubey, USMC, members of the Dauphin Island Veterans Association, were presented with the Mobile Bay Area Vietnam Veterans Medallion by Commander Dave Connolly USCG (Ret).

The Dauphin Island Veterans' Association (DIVA) is a one of a kind organization. We were initially organized as DIVETS but the name was changed in about 2007 to DIVA. The DIVA is based on Dauphin and accepts members who range from I-10 south to Dauphin Island. Members meet the 4th Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Pelican Pub on Dauphin Island.

PATRIOTS OF THE YEAR Veterans of the Vietnam War Era



Today we pause to honor the men and women who answered our nation's call to arms and made sacrifices both large and lasting. Using the dates of the National Defense Service Medal, the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission decided that it was appropriate to recognize the service of all who served

Only in recent years have the contributions of our Vietnam Era Veterans been given the proper recognition and appreciation from the general public. Many Veterans served "in country" as Soldiers and Marines. Our airmen, sailors and coast guardsmen fought in the air and sea over and in the waters of Vietnam. Others received orders to serve elsewhere and in ways that did not face the dangers of combat. Still, they served where Uncle Sam sent them, yet to give them honor does not detract from the gratitude, all too slow in coming that is owed to those who, in service to the United States of America, traveled to Southeast Asia.

Vietnam Era Veteran Medallion Application

Apply for this Distinguished Award through the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission. To apply for the medallion, veterans who served during the period of the Vietnam War (January 1, 1961 to August 14, 1974) can fill out an application and mail it to: Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission
P. O. Box 321 Daphne, AL 36526,
or contact Fran Barber – 251.605.1290



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS DAY COMMISSION, INC.

P. O. Box 321 Daphne, Alabama 36526

VetsDayCommission@gmail.com

Fran Barber 251-605-1290

Vietnam Era Veteran Medallion Application

Apply for this Distinguished Award through the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission. To apply for the medallion, veterans who served during the period of the Vietnam War (January 1, 1961, to August 14, 1974) can fill out an application and mail it to:

Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission
P. O. Box 321
Daphne, Alabama 36526

or by email to vetsdaycommission@gmail.com.

The veteran should indicate their documentation of their time service during Vietnam War. In addition to official military documents such as a DD-214 or orders awarding the National Defense Service Medal, membership in organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America are sufficient.

You may also apply by using the on-line application found at: VeteransDay-MobileBay.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Service Branch (Circle one): Army / Navy / Air Force / Marine Corps / Coast Guard

Name of Unit _____ Rank: _____

Date Served: From: _____ To: _____

Documentation: ☐ DD214 ☐ American Legion ☐ VFW ☐ VVA ☐ Other: _____

If you wish to have the presentation at a specific event or veterans organization meeting, indicate it

here: _____

Your Veterans Day Commission is proud to recognize our Vietnam Veterans for their service and many sacrifices. Please feel free to contact Steve Carey at scarey@certapro.com or 251-406-9799 with any questions or ideas you may have on how to honor all of our Bay Area Veterans during our Veterans Day celebrations.



“Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them.” -- George Eliot

Grief hurts, but as long as you hold onto a person's memory, they are never completely gone. Sometimes, thinking of a person and their unique personality and life is the best way to keep them alive.

PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS



Our Mission - The Patriot Guard Riders is a 100% Volunteer, Federally registered 501(c)(3) non-profit Organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring Fallen Military Heroes, First Responders and honorably discharged Veterans.

*I am a Patriot Guard Rider, I honor the Fallen,
I stand and witness what no one else wants to see.
I ride in the rain, I stand in the hot sun, I hold a
flag. A flag that is as dear to me as it was to our
fallen Hero. This flag must be here today. I am
simply its holder.*

*I am a Patriot Guard Rider. I will render honors.
I will pay my respects. I hope that just my standing
here with this beautiful flag will bring some small
measure of comfort.*

*I will cry when I hear the three sharp volleys of
rifle fire followed by the beautiful twenty-four
notes of taps.*

I am a Patriot Guard Rider -Author unknown—

Who to Contact When Requesting PGR at Funerals or Military Events:

1. Web site: www.patriotguard.org
2. Assistant State Captain: Lloyd Pursley, ASC
(251) 422-0696 lloydpursley@gmail.com
3. District Ride Captain: Greg Selman, DRC
(251) 490-9791 gbselman@hotmail.com
4. Senior Ride Captains: Frank Cole SRC
(251) 802-0675 bamafan36567@yahoo.com
Sam Porter, SRC (251)
455-7958 samporter@yahoo.com

When requesting the PGR escort, the following information is needed, especially on a short notice funeral:

Name of the Veteran
Branch of Service
A copy of the DD214
Date Time and place of the funeral service
Date Time and Place of the burial
Will Honor Guard be at the burial
Will there be a Police Escort to the burial

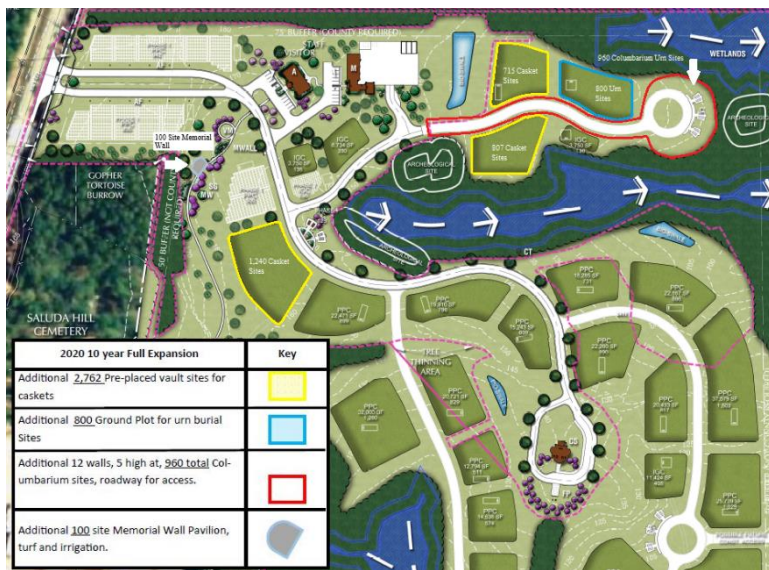
PGR - Help on The Homefront (HOTH) i.e.:

Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Special Events

Contact: Richard Ullo HOTH Senior Ride Captain

(251) 459-9470

Email: rrullo2@bellsouth.net



The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) will move forward with a plan to expand the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort after receiving a \$5 million grant from the National Cemetery Administration.

The grant is through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Cemetery Grants Program and will fund the first of 10 planned expansions of the cemetery that will serve Alabama Veterans for the next 100 years.

The expansion will add 2,762 pre-placed vault sites (casket sites), 960 Columbarium niches (above-ground urn sites), 800 in-ground urn sites, and a memorial wall that will include 100 sites. Updates to roadways, storm drainage, irrigation, and other expansion infrastructure are also included.

[ADVA Receives \\$5 Million Grant for Expansion of Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort – Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)