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*Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkison, Sy Lichtenfeld, Spiritus Emeritus SAVCS*

**NEXT SAVC MEETING – Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Sage Health Care- 1500 Government St. –Mobile, AL**

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

## Presidents Corner:

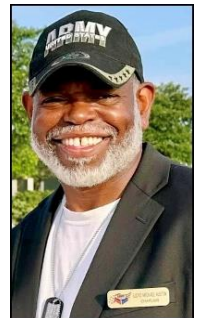


"As we leave the Summer heat behind us, we look forward to the Fall and the crisp days of Winter. The Fall is Veterans Season. We have several Veterans Day Events in Mobile and around the Bay Area. We are busy working on the Flags of Glory Celebration on 10 November (U.S. Marine Corps Birthday also) and of course, the multiple events on Monday 11 Nov. We encourage everyone to get involved in these and your local VSO events.

We look forward to our October SAVC meeting at SAGE Health and will have a list of Veteran activities in South Alabama and the Bay Area.

Remember to do your Buddy Checks, especially as we enter winter."

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



*Greetings everyone!*

It's the Gift of Grace  
Read Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

It is very hard to imagine the depth of God's love for us. To think that he loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to die on the cross so that we would have eternal life. What a wonderful Gift of grace. He gave and gave and gave and never asked anything in return; He just wanted to save us by His amazing grace through our faith. God's heartfelt desire is that no one should perish, but all should come to repentance; now that's grace. Jesus certainly didn't deserve to be crucified and treated as a common criminal who was beaten unmercifully, now that's grace. However, that is the price He paid for our sins; now that's grace. Jesus died so that we could live, now that's GRACE! By faith, we believe it, and by faith, we receive it, and by faith, we count it done.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin  
Chaplain, SAVC*

**The Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home will be the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs' fifth skilled-care nursing and memory care facility. A ribbon cutting was held Friday, September 13 at 10 a.m.**

**POST BY THE ADVA:**

Capt. Rose was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony of the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise.



Commissioner Kent Davis, Assistant Commissioner of Operations/Chief of Staff Jeff Newton, Capt. Mike Rose and Assistant Commissioner of Outreach and Engagement Sandra Lucas.

**Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs** (ADVA) Commissioner Kent Davis has appointed Samantha Wise to serve as the Director of the new Command Sg. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise, Alabama.



Photos: RGC, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, City of Enterprise.

RGC project team members of the Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home participated in the ribbon cutting alongside local, state, and federal partners in Enterprise, AL. The home will house 174 residents in six neighborhoods. Each neighborhood will include rooms with private bathrooms, community living rooms, a kitchenette for meals and snacks, and outdoor porches. One of the neighborhoods will be a dedicated memory-care unit.

This day was possible because of teamwork. The City of Enterprise, Ala., has been an incredible partner throughout this process.

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**Bennie G. Adkins – American Hero**



*Bennie G. Adkins was deployed to Vietnam three times, with his most heroic effort during his second tour leading to receiving a Medal of Honor in 2014. He distinguished himself during 38 hours of close-combat fighting while serving as an Intelligence Sergeant with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Camp A Shau in the Republic of Vietnam from March 9 to 12, 1966.*

*When the camp was attacked, then Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position defending the camp. He continued to mount a defense even while receiving several direct hits from enemy mortars. He temporarily turned over the mortar to another soldier and ran through exploding mortar rounds to rescue several soldiers wounded near the center of camp. By the end of the battle, Adkins was hit 18 times by enemy fire.*

*“Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins is an American hero who was well-known statewide for his bravery and heroism, especially in southeastern Alabama with his close ties to the community,” said SBVA Deputy Vice-Chairman Chad Richmond. “Command Sgt. Maj. Adkins was loved by everyone who knew him, and it is an honor to have his name on the new state Veterans home.”*

ADVA offers a very affordable special kind of care to Veterans through our State Veterans Home Program! Applications are available at your local Veterans Service Office, by contacting the facility, or you may download the application here:

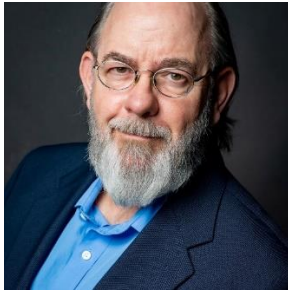
<https://va.alabama.gov/vets-home-program/>





## South Alabama Veterans Council VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

AETCM Timothy John Monahan, USCG (Ret)



Mobile's AETCM Timothy Monahan retired on October 1, 2019, after over 30 years of faithful service to the Coast Guard and our Nation. With an incredible list of achievements throughout his career, selfless service was an outstanding way to characterize his service to our Nation. Monahan is from Florissant, Missouri, he studied Paramedic at the University of South Alabama, graduating in 1996. Monahan is a talented musician. He plays harmonica, guitar, bagpipes, and other musical instruments. On many occasions, he has graced us with his bagpipes at veterans events.

Timothy John Monahan (Tim) enlisted into the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in March of 1989. Upon his successful graduation, Seaman Apprentice reported for duty to USCG Base St. Louis, where he stood duty as boat crew for search and rescue upon the Mississippi River. Within six months he was advanced to Seaman and performed duties working in the carpenter shop constructing Navigational Day Boards for the entire mid-west portion of the United States.

In August of 1990, Seaman Monahan reported to the Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Here he learned the operational and technical aspects of all Coast Guard Airframes.

Upon Graduating from his technical training, Petty Officer Third Class Monahan reported for duty to the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama, where he quickly became Qualified as an Avionics man in an HU-25 Falcon. In his new duty status, he flew on numerous missions, including Aids to Navigation and Search and Rescue. In one case, Petty Officer Monahan flew cover when the Sunset Unlimited disaster happened, keeping the news and media aircraft at bay.

In 1996, Petty Officer Monahan reported for duty to his new Air station in Clearwater, Florida. He was advanced to a

Second-Class Petty Officer and qualified in the HH-60 (Big Iron) Jayhawk helicopter. His duties included many deployments to the Caribbean Basin and the Bahamas in support of anti-drug and migrant smuggling operations.

In 2000, Petty Officer Monahan transferred to Cape Cod, MA. He advanced to AET1 and was the HU-25 shop supervisor. Being dual qualified, Petty Officer Monahan stood ready crew duty on the HU-25 Falcon and utilized his Paramedic training skills on numerous Medical Evacuations (medivac) on the HH-60.

After his five-year tour in Cape Cod, Petty Officer Monahan returned to Mobile, AL., and was assigned to the HH-60 shop. He supervised the HH-60 avionics maintenance and was a watch captain, where he scheduled his duty section. In August 2005, hurricane Katrina made landfall in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. Causing devastation along the Gulf Coast. Petty Officer Monahan was instrumental in his duties, working with personnel from every Coast Guard Air Station that brought assets to Mobile AL. He coordinated with supply to ensure the maintenance crews had what they needed to keep the planes in a ready condition. During this time, Petty Officer Monahan was advanced to E7.

In 2010, Chief Monahan returned to Air Station Cape Cod, where he in charge of the Avionics shop. He stood Officer of the Day duties and flew medivac cases. In a short two years, Chief Monahan was advanced to Senior Chief. He transferred to Barbers Point Hawaii and was the C-130 avionics shop supervisor.

In 2013, Senior Chief Monahan transferred to Air Station Los Angeles, where he assumed the duty of Command Senior Chief. In this role, Senior Chief Monahan's primary duty consisted of assisting all matters pertaining to the 45 enlisted personnel and offering guidance to the Officer Corps. Senior Chief Monahan was advanced to Master Chief in 2015 and assigned to Aviation Training Center (ATC) Mobile as its Command Master Chief.

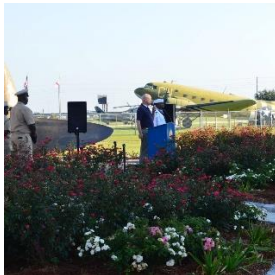


Monahan is married to Cindy LaGrone Monahan; together, they have 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

## USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

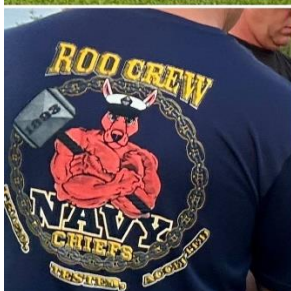
September 20, 2024, the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park hosted over 500 of the best of the U.S. Navy for CPO Pride Day 2024. The Chief Selects' full day began with a ceremony and a welcome address by Lt. Col, Ebb Counts, USA (Ret.), Deputy Executive Director of BMP.

Please help us congratulate all of the Chiefs on their achievement.



## POW/MIA CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Honoring American service members who were taken captive, standing with the families of the missing and unaccounted for, and renewing our commitment to bring home our missing heroes. The CPO led the ceremony by lighting the POW-MIA candle and carrying the light to those attending in memory of those missing.



## WELCOME

*CDR Pete Riehm USN (Ret)*

## Chaplains Prayer

*Dr. Charles Dent, USMC*

## National Anthem

*Janie Bryant*

*South Alabama Veterans Council Vocalist*

## Pledge of Allegiance

*USS Alabama Crew Mates*

## POW/MIA Remembrance

*Col Patrick Downing USA (Ret)*

## Recognition of POW/MIA Families

## Placing of the Wreath

*DAR Tristan De Luna Chapter*

*Regent Patsy Hamilton & Chaplain Annesia Miller*

## Lighting of Candles

*Chief Petty Officers*

## Missing Man Table Ceremony

*2024 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year:*

*Tom Claxton, USMC*

*Ringing of the Bell, Neil Bruyn*

## **POW/MIA TABLE PROVIDED BY:**

*Montford Point Marines Mobile Chapter #33*

## Amazing Grace

*Tim Monahan USCG (Ret)*





From Mark Smith about Lew Meyer, the Fire Chief Who was captured by the North Vietnamese. Lew Meyer. Captured in Hue during Tet 1968. Escaped in North Vietnam with Captain Floyd James Thompson (America's longest-held POW in history, nearly 9 years). They evaded for two days before recapture. They were featured on Scuttlebutt.



Pictured: Leo Meyer, Patrick Downing, and Mark Smith



### Montford Point Marines Mobile Chapter #33

MGySgt Cynthia House, on behalf of the MPM recognized MGySgt took the opportunity to thank those individuals who supported Gen J. Gary Cooper's family and the Montford Point Marines immediately after his passing in April. The family was overwhelmed with gratitude at the response of those individuals who made his passing a blessed time. She presented a letter of gratitude to ADML Davis, Col Pat Downing, CDR Pete Riehm, CAPT Joe Snowden, Tom Claxton, MCL PL Wilson Detachment, & PGR.

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

VETERAN PEER SUPPORT  
ON DUTY 24/7

251-405-3677



VETSRECOVER.ORG

### THANK YOU VETS RECOVER

Another day with VMRT at  
Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery



Thank You!! Skallywags Jeep Crew, Mobile Tails & Trails Event, for your contribution to PL Wilson MCL and SAVC, which supports Veterans.



P L Wilson Detachment MCL #447 Jeep & Car Bash at Battleship Memorial Park Veterans Helping Veterans was a huge success, as evidenced by the contributions to various Veterans' Organizations.





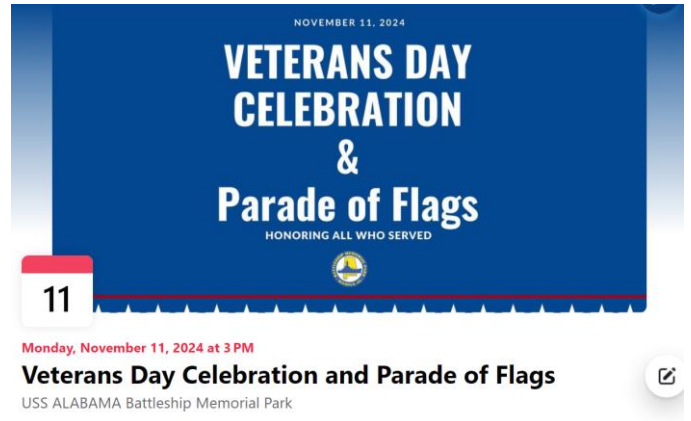
**FLAG RAISING CEREMONY**  
starts the celebration of Veterans Day  
0700 Battleship Memorial Park  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial



**Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission**

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission invites your organization to participate in the annual Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 11, 2024. The Department of Veterans Affairs has once again named Mobile, Alabama, a Regional Site for the celebration of Veterans Day.

To register your Organization for participation in the 2024 parade, please complete the registration form and return it no later than October 23, 2024  
<https://loom.ly/DKc2dA4>



**MARK YOUR CALANDER – NOV 11, 2024**  
**Tours of Airbus will be free to**  
**all veterans on Veterans Day**



**Tour times will be 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 & 1:30 pm**  
For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the website [www.flightworksalabama.com](http://www.flightworksalabama.com) or scan the QR code.



**NOVEMBER 2, 2024,**

### **USA Veteran's Day Recognition Game on 02 November 2024**

The Athletic Department has designated the 02 November 2024 football game against Georgia Southern as the Veterans Day recognition event.

Again, this year, the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission Patriot of the Year, Veteran of the Year, and the CAPT Hal Pierce Award recipients will be recognized among other Gulf Coast area veterans. Last year's event was great and well received by all who attended.

The University of South Alabama Athletic Department has made tickets available to all Military Veterans and their guests (up to 6 tickets) for the Veterans Day Recognition event on Saturday, 2 November 2024, at Hancock Whitney Stadium. The Jaguars will take on the Georgia Southern Eagles. Game time is TBD, but it's likely an afternoon game.

Multiple Veterans and Veteran organizations will be acknowledged during the game. Come out to support the Jaguars and all Veterans for their service to our Nation.

Distribute this email for maximum exposure. Follow the link below to reserve your tickets.  
[usajaguars.com/tickets/MIL](https://usajaguars.com/tickets/MIL)

**When you access the site, it will look like you are being asked to purchase tickets. All tickets are complimentary. Click on the "Buy Now" link. Select the tab that says purchase by price, add the number of tickets you want (up to 6), and follow the prompts.**

**You will go to check out and see that the cost is \$0.**

**Click check out and finish the transaction.**

Semper Fidelis,  
Frank Wendling

**RUCK THE BAY**

RUCK, RUN, WALK

**11/9/24**

**IGY6**  
GULF COAST

TAKE ON THE EASTERN SHORE TRAIL  
WITH LOCAL HEROES TO SUPPORT IGY6 - GULF  
COAST & THEIR MISSION TO SUPPORT LOCAL  
VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://GIVEBUTTER.COM/RUCKTHEBAY24](https://givebutter.com/ruckthebay24)



Join us on the Eastern Shore Trail with local heroes to support IGY6 - Gulf Coast and their vital mission to honor and support our Veterans and First Responders. This inspiring event aims to raise awareness for suicide prevention and provide access to valuable community resources. By partnering with local members and organizations, IGY6 - Gulf Coast is committed to equipping participants with the training and confidence needed to assist our heroes and their families, ensuring they feel supported, valued, and empowered.

### **OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms Veteran America Pageant

Columbus Day Oct 14

Military World Games

**Oct. 13, 2024 – Navy Birthday**

**Oct. 26, 2024 – National Day of the Deployed**



**NOVEMBER 2, 2024,  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 250  
10950 DAUPHIN ISLAND PARKWAY**

We are seeking door prizes to give to the veterans, as well as a business to sponsor lunch for our veterans on this day. We can provide a donation letter for your records and include your name on a "sponsor banner." Please contact Melanie Faulkner at 251-525-3200.

## **SAVC Minutes September 17, 2024 Meeting**

### **Location Vets Recover**

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with 57 in attendance. The Location was Vets Recover.

2. **Opening Prayer & Pledge:** RDML Endel Lee, USN (Ret). Pledge led by Sergeant Major Bryan Battaglia.

3. **Introduction and welcome**—ADML Kent Davis, Sergeant Maj Battaglia of the Year, Tom Claxton, Veteran of the Year, Nick Matranga, License Commissioner, Mayor Mike Dow, Joe Snowden, Steve Carey, Christy Hickey, CVMA 28-6, David Baird, Univ So AL.

4. **Newsletter & Minutes, Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary:** The August meeting minutes were mailed in the newsletter, which was distributed via nine snail mail newsletters and 600 emails. \$8499.75. The minutes were approved as read.

5. **Treasury & Grant Presentations, Tom Schwarz** Grant to Dixie Rear Detachment \$300.00. Tom Claxton, PL Wilson Detachment, donated \$500.00 to SAVC, Vets Recover, and Out of the Deep.

6. **Navy & Veterans News: Pete** He reported on USNS Comfort Navy ships returning to the port and the Navy's birthday banquet on October 10 at the Battleship Aircraft Pavilion. The Veterans Day Parade application has been sent out. There will be a luncheon at noon at Ft Whiting.

7. **Current Veterans Activities and AL News:** Jim Jefferies is unable to attend – POW/MIA in Montgomery on 9/21 and at Battleship Park on 9/20 with USN CPO attending.

8. **AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation: Pat Downing,** 4179 internments, 3<sup>rd</sup> caretaker position filled, getting 2<sup>nd</sup> committal shelter, Crest - robotic mower program in working stages, National Cemetery Agency will be inspecting in early October.

9. **USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, Pat Downing:** BMP Maj Gen Janet Cobb retiring 12/31/2024, Pam Jeffcoat retiring 12/31/24. New Exhibit The Homefront featuring

events during WWII—2024 CPOA Pride event celebrating Chiefs that have made E-6.

10. **Alabama Dept. of Veteran Affairs: ADML Kent Davis**— Working on 2<sup>nd</sup> State Cemetery, Sept 13, ribbon cutting new veterans home. He announced he is stepping down on 12/31/2024. Thanked everyone for their support. He gave everyone a challenge coin.

11. **VMRT:** Neil Bruyn thanked P L Wilson for their donations and invited people to help.

12. **Alabama Chapter 92<sup>nd</sup> Buffalo Soldiers** Eddie Irby reported on recent activities

**RDML Endel Lee** reported on the National Flag Relay on Memorial Day and has conducted the event in Mobile and Baldwin County for 16 years. It is expanding from Arlington National Cemetery to San Diago approx. 106 flags, all in the same day.

**RDML Endel Lee introduced the guest speaker,** Dr. Jorey Krawczyn, and his main topic was Suicide. There were several comments about suicide by key veterans.

**Montford Point Marines Mobile Chapter #33**—MGySgt House encouraged everyone to pick up a package donated by Operation Gratitude. MGySgt took the opportunity to thank those individuals who supported Gen J. Gary Cooper's family and the Montford Point Marines immediately after his passing in April. The family was overwhelmed with gratitude at the response of those individuals who made his passing a blessed time. She presented a letter of gratitude to ADML Davis, Col Pat Downing, CDR Pete Riehm, CAPT Joe Snowden, Tom Claxton, MCL PL Wilson Detachment, & PGR.

**Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 28-6:** Christi Hickey thanked the SAVC and the PL Wilson Detachment for the donation to purchase hats 'to give to veterans they visit

**NOPH:** Bill Bergman, on a recent tour to Veterans Home, WF Green, provided snacks for them.

**AIRBUS:** James Burks, Veterans Resource Group, Airbus is looking to donate to any veterans organization with upcoming events supporting veterans

**.Good of the Order- September Meeting** - The October meeting will be at Sage Health. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am. Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary