



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, Bill Atkeison, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- January 16,, 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:

"We are at the end of a great 2023, and we are looking at an even better 2024.

The SAVC has had a full and successful year. Looking back over the many ceremonies and events like Vietnam Memorial Day, Memorial Day, Armed Forces and Blue Star Salute Day, POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony, Flags of Glory, Veterans Day Flag Raising, a Grant Program that awarded over \$5K to local VSOs at our monthly meetings, and much more.

All of our participation in these events and ceremonies could not have been possible without the great support of our hard-working members who spent countless hours planning and executing these great programs and events. We encourage everyone to get involved and be an active part of the SAVC Team. We wish you and yours a great holiday season, Christmas, and New Year."

Lou Lartigue, President USA LTC (Ret)
South Alabama Veterans Council



Chaplains Corner:

Season Greetings!

*It's good news for everyone
Read Luke 2:10*

"And the angel said unto them," Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

"The Bible says that on this day a savior which is Christ the Lord was born. It doesn't give us a specific day or date, which has caused many debates. However, the Bible focuses on the events that took place: the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; The Lamb of God, The great I AM; The king of kings, and the Lord of Lords.

This is a reason for great joy. He came to save His people from their sins. He is able to save anybody because He is an equal-opportunity God."

Have a Merry Christmas In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC



SAVE THE DATE – SAVC MEETING

January 16, 2024

SOUTH ALABAMA VETERANS COUNCIL

There will not be an SAVC meeting in December. We take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Vets Recover Help A Hero Holiday Wish List

Help VRR make this holiday season special for the Taylor Family. Mr. Taylor is a military Veteran with a wife, 2 small children, and a baby on the way. Items purchased will shipped to VRR and presented to the Taylor Family before the holidays. Thank you for supporting the Taylors!

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Legion License Plate



Order from the link below:

<https://precommit.mvtrip.alabama.gov>

Legion Family,

It's finally here, you can now get your AUTO, BOAT, MOTORCYCLE, OR TRAILER American Legion license plate(s). Any member of the Legion Family can get one.

The Department goal is 1,000 plates and the tags will cost \$50.00. After the 1,000 are sold they will go into production. These tags CAN BE personalized.

For every tag sold the Department will get \$31.00 and the District will receive \$10.00 per tag sold.

Give me a call at 205-396-8601 and I can walk you through the application.

V/r
James A. Bryant Sr



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December 16th at 10 AM

Family Wreath Day

Alabama State Veterans Cemetery

Spanish Fort, AL

An invitation is extended to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and all those young at heart to help honor our veterans resting in this beautiful place by placing a Flag at their headstones... please share this invitation...we need as many little and big hands as we can get to help not only honor the veterans buried there but their families also...



Helping Veterans in Mobile County and Baldwin County (and extending throughout Alabama). We are creating a list of veteran-owned businesses and Veteran Service Organizations (also non-profits) 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.

[VETERAN-OWNED \(sava.info\)](http://sava.info)

Helping to Overcome H2O



Travel Dates for 2024 are here. Click the link to see our assigned dates for the Veterans Immersion Program with the Georgia Aquarium, as well as our fundraising trip dates and locations for 2024. 2024 Course and Charter Dates / Locations to be announced soon.

<https://helping2overcome.org/calendar>

CHRISTMAS

JOYFUL, PEACEFUL, AND BRIGHT,
 FILLED WITH LOVE AND OF LIFE.
 CHRIST THE WAY, TRUTH & LIGHT,
 BORN ON THIS MOST HOLY NIGHT.

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER ABOVE,
 SENDS HIS SON WITH HIS LOVE.
 A GIFT OF HOPE FOR YOU & ME,
 SALVATION & LIFE ETERNAL BE.

JOMAC



WASHINGTON — Helping Veterans and their families stay in their homes is a top priority

To ensure these Veterans can stay in their homes, we are taking two steps:

- We are calling on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024. During this pause we will work with servicers on workable home retention solutions for Veterans; and
- We are extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification program through May 31, 2024. This extension will allow Veterans to obtain a zero-interest, deferred-payment loan from VA to cover missed payments and modify their existing VA-guaranteed loan to achieve affordable monthly payments for the duration of this extension.

If you are a Veteran or Servicemember having difficulty making mortgage payments, call 877-827-3702 to speak with a VA Loan Technician. Visit our [help to avoid foreclosure webpage](#) for more information about avoiding foreclosure. VA loan technicians work with Veterans to help them stay in their homes, including discussing available home retention options such as repayment plans, special forbearance, loan modification, and more.

USA Federal Holidays for Year 2024

Date	Day of Week	Holiday Name
January 1	Monday	New Year's Day
January 15	Monday	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 19	Monday	Washington's Birthday (aka Presidents Day)
May 27	Monday	Memorial Day
June 19	Wednesday	Juneteenth National Independence Day
July 4	Thursday	Independence Day
September 2	Monday	Labor Day
October 14	Monday	Columbus Day
November 11	Monday	Veterans Day
November 28	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Wednesday	Christmas Day



Another Veterans Day Celebration in the books. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those volunteers who made this year's Veterans Day Celebration a huge success.

-Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission Team

Important Dates in Military History

December

Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday	Dec. 1
#GivingTuesday	Tuesday after Thanksgiving
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Dec. 7
U.S. National Guard Birthday	Dec. 13
National Wreaths Across America	Dec. 18

National Pearl Harbor

Remembrance Day December 7, 2023

Each year on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world come together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A further 1,178 people were injured in the attack, which permanently sank two U.S. Navy battleships (the USS *Arizona* and the USS *Utah*) and destroyed 188 aircraft.

On Aug. 23, 1994, the United States Congress designated Dec. 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Every year, remembrance events are held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, culminating in a commemoration ceremony on Dec. 7.

Details about the 82nd commemoration ceremony and other commemorative events are provided on the official [Pearl Harbor Events](#) page.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 AT 10:30 AM

Wreaths Across America

Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery

Join Members of CVMA® 28-6 - they placing wreaths at Mobile Memorial Gardens

Flags of Glory - a week-long tribute in honor of America's military service personnel both living and deceased.

What makes Flags of Glory a meaningful and successful patriotic event? People and organizations willing to participate.



CONGRATULATIONS



Julius Powell, Lou Lartigue, Eva Golson, Pete Riehm

The South Alabama Veterans Council & Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery Honors Eva Golson as the 2023 Flags of Glory Veteran Supporter of the Year.

The award recognizes a civilian volunteer who has contributed a large effort to the benefit of the Veterans of South Alabama. Eva has devoted hours of service advertising our Veteran activities and providing assistance to the many Veteran Service Organizations in the Bay Area.

The Flags of Glory Service Award

Presented to organizations that are making a difference in the Veteran community in South Alabama.



Mr. Lynn and his wife Monica Sullivan of the "Dixie Rear Detachment."

The Dixie Rear Detachment is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that ships Care Packages to soldiers who are deployed overseas. Today they are working to send packages to 8 organizations supporting about 1600 service men and women. They work with the parent unit to determine the soldier's needs and try to meet those needs. Currently, they are sending packages to the LHD5 Bataan and 7 more infantry and special forces units deployed to remote locations worldwide. They are also planning the support of the 226th AANG Support Unit of Mobile.



Eli – Pete – Julius

Out of the Deep – Eli Crawford

Captain Eli Crawford of the "Out of the Deep," a 501 (c)3 non-profit provides veterans and their families an opportunity to experience a trip on Mobile Bay to enjoy a free day of fishing and comradery. He is a US Navy veteran himself and a USCG-certified commercial captain. The organization provides all the equipment and gear, bait, gas, and more. He concentrates on Veterans who are experiencing PTSD and TBI."

The Flags of Glory 2023 Spotlight

Recognizes a Veteran who contributes a large amount of support to the Veterans of South Alabama. The late LTC Robert Merwin Horton Jr. USA (Ret) was honored.

Bob's wife Mrs. Tammy Horton and his Son Nicholas Horton were in attendance. Admiral Davis escorted them to the Patriot Memorial Tribute Flag at the entrance of the Gardens to affix the ID tag to the Memorial Flag."

"In remembrance of this event Lou and Julius presented a Flag case which will hold the flag and his ID Tag, at the end of the Flags of Glory Week.



Mobile Memorial Gardens and the South Alabama Veterans Council want to thank the organizations that made this year's Flags of Glory Ceremony possible:

USCG

Placement and Display of Flags

Theodore HS JROTC

Maintenance and replacement of Flags

The Staff of Mobile Memorial Gardens

Partner & Grounds Maintenance

The Mobile Christian Band

The Battleship Crewmates

The Azelia Trail Maids

The SAVC Team

American Legion Post 250 Honor Guard

Patriot Guard Riders

Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery
Clean-up Day
November 21, 2023



Mobile BayKeepers



Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club
Lil Man and Mr B provided the equipment for the
Mobile BayKeepers



Neil and USCG-Mark

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

Saturday, December 9, last Living History Crew Drill of the year. For this drill only, BMP will once again be collecting items for the @William F. Green State Veterans Home. Receive \$2 off your adult admission ticket when you donate at least one of the following items.

Saturday, December 9 **William F. Green Donations**

Receive \$2 off when you bring:

- Chips, cookies, candy, sodas
- M-3XL pocket t-shirts
- S-L clothing items
- Diabetic socks
- Neck wallets
- Reacher's
- Batteries
- Sensitive toothpaste
- iPhone chargers
- Alcohol free mouthwash
- Shampoo
- Bodywash
- Deodorant
- Bird seed
- Slippers

DO NOT BRING:

- Bar soap
- Body powder
- Germ-x
- Cleaning products

The Blacksmith Experience

Forging a Difference is getting ready to kick off its third annual knife-making competition at the battleship this year! More information at: www.theblacksmithexperience.com and www.forgingadifference.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

KNIFE-MAKING COMPETITION

FEATURING FORMER FORGED IN FIRE CONTESTANTS!

USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP PARK

Exciting News! **J. Neilson.**

Knives & Instruction and his friend Shelley of GypsySoulknives will be joining us via Zoom on Friday Night at the Meet and Greet time, Friday, December 8th! The dinner will be a great time to talk to J & Shelley and all of the other amazing FIF competitors that will be competing at the **3rd Annual Knife Competition "Grudge Match" & Custom Knife Show at USS Alabama Battleship!** The dinner on Friday night, December 8th, will be from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at **Faith Family Fellowship Spanish Fort**. Cost is \$30/person. Please RSVP online at: [https://www.forgingadifference.com/.../MEET_%26 GR EET...](https://www.forgingadifference.com/.../MEET_%26_GR EET...)



ALABAMA
VETERANS RESOURCE

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. This effort aims to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses.



MOBILE MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES® 

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

GLORY AND PRAISE

TO BRING JOY TO THE WORLD,
ANGELS WE DO HEAR ON HIGH.
GLORY TO OUR NEW BORN KING,
JOIN THEIR VOICES IN REPLY.

Joe Mc Cormick
JOMAC - Come Let Us Adore

South Alabama Veterans Council
November 21, 2023 Meeting
Breakfast was provided by Sage Healthcare

CALL TO ORDER: President Lou Lartigue called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with -36 in attendance - Location Saucy Q BBQ

OPENING PRAYER: Chaplain Michael Austin

PLEDGE: Jim Jeffries

WELCOME: Lou Lartigue welcomed everyone, and recognized new attendees. Toys for Tots gifts Thanks!

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom Schwarz-Balance from Hat collected \$651.00

GRANT: The Grant program received a donation from an anonymous donor that will be used during the 2024 program. A donation was made in honor of Mrs. Jean Bruyn instead of flowers.

Veterans Activities: Jim Jeffries reported on recent Marine Corps Balls, the Fairhope Veterans Day Parade on Nov 4 was a huge success...Fairhope Veterans of the Year is Edwin Lessard "Juju".

Flags of Glory – Julius Powell: On Sunday, Nov 5, at Mobile Memorial Gardens – proceeds from sponsorship of the flags are given back to the community. The Dixie Rear Detachment, and Out of the Deep were the recipients of the 2023 award. Eva Golson received the Veterans Appreciation Award for 2023. Special recognition was given to Robert "Bob" Horton posthumously, who recently retired from the ADVA, his wife and son were present to receive the Honorary Flag flown in his honor.

State Veterans Cemetery – Joe Buschell reported on the construction and internment

Col Patrick Downing – Reported on Veterans Day events, he read the winner's essay from the Parade of Flags contest. A reenactment will be on December 9.

Forging a Difference – Jerry Gardner: Event at the Battleship on December 9, TV celebrities will be participating in the event.

ADVA – Sissy Louise reported on events surrounding Veterans Day.

Armed Forces Day/Blue Star Salute – Lou will have a meeting today to discuss the status of the AFD/BSS event.

VMRT – VR adopted an area and comes out 3rd Tues, and Mobile Baykeepers will be volunteering on Nov 21 with Mark from USCG, Pascagoula.

Topics of Interest - Candidate for Mobile Co. License Commission - David Melton reported on is campaign.

Guest Speaker: SAGE Healthcare – Kesha Chambers "The Medicare Lady", and Phil Quigley, Community Outreach Specialist for Sage Healthcare.

GOOD OF THE ORDER -
THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN DECEMBER, we will start again in January 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am
Fran Barber
Secretary, SAVC
November 21, 2023