



# 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

Lou Lartigue  
251-471-4322  
Council President

Pat Downing  
251-751-6619  
Council VP

Fran Barber  
251-605-1290  
Secretary / NewsLetter  
Michael Austin, Chaplain  
251-391-8176

Tom Schwarz  
251-649-8459  
Treasurer / Chambless Fund

Pete Riehm  
251-442-4349  
LNO/MC

SAVC e-mail: [support@savc.info](mailto:support@savc.info)

CAPT HAL PIERCE, BILL ATKEISON, SPIRITUS AMERITUS SAVC

**NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- February 15, 2022 – 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q**

1111 Government Blvd–Mobile AL

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

## Presidents Corner:



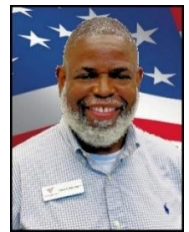
“Yes, Winter is here! It all reminds me of a winter field exercise in Germany--COLD! God bless our troops who are out in this cold training and preparing to protect these gates of freedom. Keep them in your prayers especially in these trying times.

We are busy with planning the 2022 Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute Event on 22 May 2022. We are also tracking the local and State activities that affect our Veterans. Admiral Davis was at our January meeting and gave us a comprehensive view what is going on at the Alabama State Department of Veterans Affairs. He is getting it done!

Fran is busy tracking the events and activities to report to you in our newsletter and sending out information of interest to our members as evidenced in this newsletter. Remember, if you have a topic of interest to all our Veterans let Fran know.

Stay safe and healthy as we fight this COVID environment and prepare for Mardi Gras. Stay Warm!"

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



## Chaplains Corner:

Good morning!

It's behave yourself wisely:

Read 1 Samuel 18:14

"And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him"

We as believers have a standard and responsibility to uphold. It is measured by the way we act and behave ourselves. The Lord God Almighty is watching and observing us, as well as families, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and our fellow Veterans. Therefore let's make a conscious effort to behave ourselves wisely in the sight of God and man.

In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC



**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. The aim of this effort is to provide support to and increase awareness of Veteran Owned Businesses.

<https://alabamaveteransresourceguide.com/>

SAVC Website – click on over to the SAVC website <http://www.savc.info> for information on upcoming events, newsletters, links to veterans organizations, and other helpful information.

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Our Condolences to Lou, the Braddock family and friends.



**Richard “Brad” Braddock**

COL, USA (Ret) Signal Corps

Dong Tam, Vietnam, 1968-1969

A Company Commander, 9th Signal Bn., 9th Infantry Division

January 11, 1940 - December 31, 2021

Lou Lartigue – *“I spent all day in Pensacola with my Company Commander, Col Braddock, from Vietnam. I presented him and his family my Vietnam Medallion and they were very appreciative. We pinned it to his pillow, but I really think he too would have appreciated it.”*

He was a man of dignity, pride, and love of country. Brad proudly served his country for 30 years and then went on to work for SAIC for another 17 years to support our military in corporate America.



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**[Celebrated Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee dies at 102 \(arcpublishing.com\)](http://arcpublishing.com)**

He retired as a colonel in the Air Force in 1973, then earned a college degree in business administration and worked as a business executive. He was accorded an honorary commission promoting him to the one-star rank of brigadier general as he turned 100. Another event marked his centennial year: He flew a private jet between Frederick, Maryland, and Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

In 2020, McGee drew a standing ovation from members of Congress when introduced by President Donald Trump during his State of the Union address.

In addition to encouraging young men and women to pursue careers in aviation, McGee was a source of information about the Tuskegee Airmen and offered a unique perspective on race relations of the era through the airmen’s nonprofit educational organization.



**Congressman Jerry Carl**

December 8, 2021 - **Press Release**

**Carl Congratulates Austal USA and SSAB for Partnership on Steel Ship Construction**

President Joe Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022 into law. The bill, with a price tag of \$770 billion, will bring military projects to Alabama, and among those included is Mobile’s Austal USA shipyard.

**Washington, D.C.** – Congressman Jerry Carl (R-Mobile) issued the following statement regarding Austal USA’s announcement they have contracted with local Alabama steel provider SSAB to provide steel for the new Navy ships. Recently, the U.S. Navy rewarded Austal USA with contracts to build steel-hulled Towing, Salvage, and Rescue ships (T-ATS). This partnership directly supports hundreds of jobs in south Alabama at Austal USA and SSAB.

*The announcement of the partnership between Austal USA and SSAB is a big win for the steel industry and shipbuilding industry in south Alabama. SSAB’s quality steel and close location to Austal USA will greatly enhance Austal USA’s ability to construct vessels quickly enough to meet the current and future national security needs of the United States. This partnership is great news for our local workforce and economy, plus it will strengthen the national security footprint of the United States. I’m proud to represent Austal USA and SSAB, and I look forward to their continued success for years to come.*

Congressman Carl’s office can be reached at:  
202-225-4931.

To find out more about Jerry Carl, visit his **website**  
Or

Follow him on **Facebook, Twitter,**  
And

**Instagram** @RepJerryCarl.



**Rear Admiral/Commissioner**

**Davis ADVA** -Reported on several projects from the Federal Level.

There is a lot of political stuff going on that veterans need to be involved in, and we need to remind our elected officials there are about 400,000 Veterans in Alabama. When you add up veterans and their family members, a rough estimate, they make up about a quarter of the population of Alabama. That's an important voting block; we should be important voices, as there are a lot of things going on now that directly affect veterans. We need to be at the table and have our elected officials listen to us. In particular, there are several actions before the US Congress right now that we need to be tuned in to.

One is the probability of some legislative action before the US Congress to support mental health needs of veterans. We need to remind our congressional delegation in Alabama that mental health issues are very important for veterans.

The second thing - The Federal VA is doing an infrastructure review/assessment of every single Veterans health care facility in the country, that process is going on now. The VA is going to put together a list with all those recommendations; Congress will eventually weigh in on those and take a vote. We need to be tuned into that. The health care facilities under the VA in Alabama are under two different Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs), and it makes it difficult sometimes to deal with two different chains of command. There are 22 VISNS in the United States; most of Alabama is in VISN 7 out of Atlanta. The southern part in Alabama is in VISN 16 out of Biloxi. It perhaps makes more sense to have all the facilities in Alabama managed under one VISN. That could be a part of this whole infrastructure assessment and realignment undergoing right now in the Federal VA that will eventually go to Congress.

The Third issue that is important right now at the Federal level is the topic of toxic exposures. There is a recognition that we needed to continue to take care of Vietnam Era Veterans especially. We have even seen some developments with those veterans over the last couple of years. For example, the Blue Water Navy expansion of coverage for Agent Orange exposure was an important development for sailors that served. In the past couple of years the federal VA has recognized

additional presumptive conditions as well. A similar process is going on right now for Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ft McClellan here in Alabama. There is growing recognition that we need to collectively look at those non-Vietnam-related exposures as well, and there are several bills before Congress right now. There is talk that maybe these bills will be consolidated; there is also talk all of some of those bills may go away because they are just too expensive. Those discussions of toxic exposure are very important. Ft McClellan was the home of the Army chemical Corp; according to some there is evidence that chemical herbicides were used at Ft McClellan, including Agent Orange itself. There is also some scientific evidence that veterans of Ft McClellan have suffered from long-term health effects. Again, there are several bills trying to address all of that before the US Congress . . . very important legislation.

The last thing to talk about at the federal level is there is an ongoing effort to merge the DOD and VA medical records systems in a digitized format. We all know the problems we have sometimes had in the past with paper-based records and trying to get them to transfer over from DOD to VA to justify disability claims and other requests for benefits. That's going to take several years and billions of dollars. They got off to a little bit of a rough start with the contractor they initially picked so they had to do a slight restart. But I do think that's going to finally be accomplished in the next few years and we will have one records system, they will all be digitized, and it will make our jobs in Veterans Affairs--both federal and state--a lot better if they can pull that off.

*"It is important that your voices be heard. Ya'll represent the veterans, definitely in this region [South Alabama], but I would argue for the whole state. You need to talk to elected officials and remind them; sometimes they frankly need to be reminded. We are starting to lose the connection between our elected officials and those who have served in uniform. The days of the majority of our elected officials being veterans are long gone. Now most of our elected officials are not veterans and the connection is diminishing. We need to remind them of some of the things that I mentioned . . . politely and respectfully . . . but also that we are a big voting block too. When you add us all up--veterans, active duty military, family members--my estimate is we have a quarter of the population in Alabama, and that is a large voting bloc."*

--Rear Admiral/Commissioner Kent Davis, USN (Ret)  
Alabama Department Veterans Affairs  
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*The “Alabama’s Challenge” Town Hall will be held in Dothan on February 16 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Dothan Opera House.*



### **A Report on “Alabama’s Challenge”**

**Robert Horton** - Assistant Commissioner for Outreach and Engagement, ADVA, AANG (Ret)

In 2019, Rep Neil Rafferty sponsored a resolution that created a task force for Veterans Suicide Prevention, in the state of Alabama. Soon thereafter, the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) approached the Governor and recommended that the state of Alabama participate in a pilot program sponsored by the Federal VA and substance abuse Mental Health Service Administration called, “The Governors Challenge”.

Governor Ivy agreed for the state of Alabama to participate in this important program that is focused on preventing suicide among service members, veterans, and their families. ADVA has been involved in this pilot for about 18 months. Progress is being made.

#### **This initiative is focused on three main areas:**

**1. Ask the question:** If a person goes into an emergency room or clinic, and they are in a crisis situation, instead of asking ‘are you a veteran’, we are promoting the hospital or clinic to ask **“Have you ever served in the military?”** Some individuals, because of their service, may not believe that they are a veteran by virtue of them not serving in combat or by serving in the National Guard Reserve.

The purpose of asking that question is to identify those veterans who are seeking assistance who may be in a crisis situation, so we can have an understanding of the significant issue that we have in the State of Alabama.

**2, Connectedness:** Encouraging veterans to reach out for assistance if they are in a crisis situation or if they have a particular need. Encourage the communities, friends, and families to connect with a veteran who may be in a crisis situation or who may need assistance.

**3. Legal means safety:** 83% of suicides among males in the state of Alabama are by firearms. The reason for that, a lot of males in Alabama own guns. We are not advocating that veterans not own guns. What we are doing is promoting storage safety and legal means of safety. Encouraging families and friends to identify those traits that a person may have if they are in a crisis situation. Just being proactive

and protecting the person and also those around him. For about 18 months we have been trying to identify the data in the state of Alabama on the number of veteran suicides:

The Dept. of Public Health annually publishes a report that lists the number of suicides in the state. The report did not identify the number of veterans who die by suicides in Alabama. Our new program manager for Veteran Wellbeing, Sissy Louise Moore, reached out to the IT office of the Alabama Department of Public Health. They provided a report that lists the number of veteran suicides that occurred in Alabama in 2020.

In the state of Alabama alone, 793 individuals committed suicide. Of that 793, 152 were veterans. That is 19% of the total number of suicides in the state of Alabama being veterans, although they only comprise 9% of the population.

We got a pilot program with the city of Dothan. As part of this process, we wanted to have a test site before we went statewide rolling out this initiative. It will be about a 12-month pilot program in the City of Dothan, to include a town hall that we are planning to start in January. The purpose of the town hall is to bring public awareness of the suicide issue that we have among service members and their families. Dothan is also in close proximity to Fort Rucker.

The purpose, in addition to bringing public awareness, is to identify the services that are available within the communities, both state and federal agencies, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations.

There have been enough studies about why veterans commit suicide. This is not a study that we are undertaking. This is to deliver services, connect services to veterans who may be in need, and help their families and service members.

The resolution that Rep Rafferty sponsored mandated that the state of Alabama conduct town hall meetings in communities that have a population of 75,000 or more. We are starting the town hall in Dothan and want to move the next town hall to the city of Mobile.

More data from the report:

In Baldwin County last year, 51 people committed suicide, of that 51, 14 were veterans. That is 27%.

In Mobile, there were 55 suicides and 10 were veterans, that’s 18%.

*“We have a major crisis in the state of Alabama and we need to do something about it. Again, the effort will depend on how well we identify resources within our community and how well we bring those resources together to reach out to those veterans, service members, and families in need.” Robert Horton, AANG (Ret)*

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ADVA – 2022 is expected to be an exciting year as preparations for the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home continue in Enterprise. You can read more about Medal of Honor recipient Bennie G. Adkins and the new facility in LIVE Lee magazine:

<https://bit.ly/3ER7M6Q>

Are you familiar with our Alabama State Veterans Home Program? ADVA offers a very affordable special kind of care to Veterans with four facilities around the state. 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/>

## Suicide Prevention Resources STATE

### The Crisis Center (Central Alabama)

Main Line: 205-323-7777

Teen Line: 205-328-LINK (54365)

Kids' Help Line: 205-328-KIDS (5437)

Senior Talk Line: 205-328-TALK (8255)

24/7 service to serve unmet needs of people experiencing crisis and mental health issues.

Service area includes Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker counties.

### Crisis Services of North Alabama

256-716-1000 or 1-800-691-8426

Free resource for individuals and families in crisis for all races and ethnicities, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, and ages.



### **Veterans Recovery Resources**

Our ongoing partnership with NBC 15 continues to help us let our community members know about our [services, programs, and life saving work](#).

We are looking for persons interested in sharing their story of connection with VRR. Whether you've had a family member, community member, or you have benefited from affiliation with VRR, we NEED to tell those stories. These stories DO NOT need to be only about recovery—it's about connection.

If you are interested, willing, and able to conduct an interview, **simply let me know**. I'll support you through the process. [Here's an example](#) of Austin telling his story.



**VETERANS RECOVERY  
RESOURCES**

### **Veterans Recovery Resources**

A community based mental wellness program that's designed for the specific needs of veterans—regardless of their ability to pay. With help of empathic, specially trained professionals, veterans can quickly begin the road back to healthier and more meaningful lives.

When we say 'By Veterans, for Veterans,' we mean it. The majority of our staff and administration are made up of those who know what it's like to serve. And are committed to helping their brothers and sisters in arms know peace.



Photo by Kimberly Anne Clark

Veterans Recovery Resources Peer Ambassador Training was held on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

In general, peer support can be defined as any situation in which a person uses his or her lived experience of recovery from substance abuse or other issues with mental wellness, along with skills learned in formal training, to support others' healing and recovery from the same problems. Drawing on their own experiences as Veterans, Veteran Peer Support Specialists are uniquely equipped to offer practical skills/knowledge as well as empathy, hope, and insight.



### **Stands for I Got Your Six.**

The semi-colon means pause or rest. Teal represents PTSD awareness, the letters IGY are typically black to represent the heavy hearts carried by those who struggle with PTSD and those who have lost loved ones to suicide because of PTSD. Red is a symbol of the blood that has been shed.

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## How to Start a Small Business – A Veteran's SMB Guide With Tools and Financial Resources

The Best Grants, Loans & Training Resources for Veteran Entrepreneurs in 2021

Written by [Jason Simon](#)  
Updated December 22, 2021

Disclosure: Your support helps keep the site running! We earn a referral fee for some of the services we recommend on this page. [Learn More](#)

### [How to Start a Small Business - A Veteran's SMB Guide With Tools and Financial Resources - Digital.com](#)

As a veteran, many of the skills you learned in the military can be especially helpful in running a business. The wide range of hard and soft skills you acquired through service can be transferred with great success to the private sector. Many veterans are doing just that.

According to the United States Small Business Association (SBA), **2 1/2 million businesses** are run by veterans. Nearly one in 10 U.S. businesses are veteran-owned. They cover the entire range of business types: from professional and technical services to consulting, construction, consumer products, and more.

While funding can be an obstacle for many new entrepreneurs, veterans have some advantages. Federal agencies are required to set aside a certain amount of funding for vets. This is especially helpful, given that many veterans **lack sufficient credit history** to obtain funding from traditional sources like banks.

This guide will outline the steps you'll take to get a successful company off the ground. It dives deep into each step and explains exactly what you need. There is a wide range of excellent resources that can help you turn an idea into a successful business.



### Elizabeth Cruz

Unity Fiber "Proud To Serve" – Elizabeth Cruz – Outreach Coordinator for Unity Fiber "Proud to Serve", just recently started a diversity and inclusion group for veterans and first responders. What we are all about is creating community and breaking down barriers within Unity Fiber for our group, and doing outreach within the community, and helping to build a better community. Out of approximately 890 employees, close to 100 of them are veterans. Active serving Guard members, retired navy, retired air force like Cathy De Legarza female fighter pilot.

Unity is very driven for veterans Outreach taskforce commander. They have adopted Eagles Landing, trying to get involved with other outreach programs. Two outreach programs a year.



### Dr. Tonya Butler

"We have been on the Gulf Coast since 2014, we teach kayaking to disabled vets. We have two clinics coming up in the New Year where we fly blind and visually impaired vets in to teach them independent skills for a lifestyle."

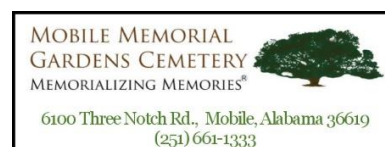
### Lifestyle

We believe that health and healing is achieved by regularly participating in programs that are fun and active. Our paddling opportunities include sea kayaking, flatwater paddling, stand up paddle boarding, whitewater paddling, and rafting throughout the year.

### Team River Runner's Mission

*To provide all veterans and their families an opportunity to find health, healing, community purpose, and new challenges through adventure and adaptive paddle sports!*

For more information contact:  
[mobile.al@teamriverrunner.org](mailto:mobile.al@teamriverrunner.org)



A BUSINESS SUPPORTING VETERANS





## FIND MY ELECTED OFFICIAL MAP LINK:

[Find My Elected Official Map | Alabama Secretary of State](#)

Just enter your zip code and your elected officials will be listed...it's cool!

### U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R)

U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R)

### State: Alabama

Governor	Kay Ivey (R)
Lt. Governor	Will Ainsworth (R)
Attorney General	Steve Marshall (R)
Secretary of State	John Merrill (R)
Auditor	Jim Zeigler (R)
Treasurer	John McMillan (R)
Commissioner of Agriculture	Rick Pate (R)
Public Service Commission, President	Twinkle Cavanaugh (R)
Public Service Commission, Place 1	Jeremy Oden (R)
Public Service Commission, Place 2	Chip Beeker (R)

### Judicial Offices

Supreme Court, Chief Justice Tom Parker (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Michael F. Bolin (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Greg Shaw (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Alisa Kelli Wise (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Tommy Bryan (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice William B. Sellers (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Brady E. Mendheim Jr. (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sarah H. Stewart (R)

Supreme Court, Associate Justice Jay Mitchell (R)

Appellate Court, Civil Appeals William C. Thompson (R)

Appellate Court, Civil Appeals Terry A. Moore (R)

Appellate Court, Civil Appeals Matt Fridy (R)

Appellate Court, Civil Appeals Christy O. Edwards (R)

Appellate Court, Civil Appeals Chad H. Hanson (R)

Appellate Court, Criminal Appeals Mary Becker Windom (R)

Appellate Court, Criminal Appeals J. Elizabeth Kellum (R)

Appellate Court, Criminal Appeals J. Chris McCool (R)

Appellate Court, Criminal Appeals J. William Cole (R)

Appellate Court, Criminal Appeals Richard J. Minor (R)

Circuit Court Judge(s) Michael A. Youngpeter, Ben H. Brooks, Brandy Hambricht, James T. Patterson, Jill P. Phillips, Michael P. Windom, S. Wesley Pipes, Jay A. York, Walter H. Honeycutt, Michael D. Sherman, Edmond G. Naman

District Court Judge(s) George Hardesty, Joe Basenburg, Spiro Cheriogotis, George Brown, George Zoghby

District Attorney(s) Ashley Rich

### State Senate District:

DISTRICT 33

Senator Vivian Davis Figures (D)

### State House District:

DISTRICT 97

Representative Adline Clarke (D)

### Congressional District: CD1

DISTRICT 1

Representative Jerry Carl (R)

### State Board of Education:

Elected Official Tonya Chestnut (D)



## Armed Forces Day Blue Star Salute Memorial 5K Run/Walk

### About this event

#### Date and Time:

5K race will start at 7:30 AM 1 Mile will start at 7:35 AM

#### Location:

USS Alabama Battleship Park on the Causeway.

#### Benefits:

Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. ([www.bluestarsalute.org](http://www.bluestarsalute.org)) Each runner will run with the name of one of Alabama's Fallen Heroes on their Race Bib and afterwards during activities, they can visit the wall of Alabama's Faces of the Price of Freedom to see the faces of their fallen service member.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/memorial-5k-runwalk-1-mile-run-for-alabamas-fallen-heroes-tickets-250372921147>

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO THE AFD/BSS WEBSITE  
[www.armedforcesdaymobile.com](http://www.armedforcesdaymobile.com)

(No deposit is required of Veterans Service Organizations, i.e.: American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps Leagues, DAV, etc.)

Alabama's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day Blue Star Salute and  
8th Annual 5K Memorial Run/Walk for  
Alabama's Fallen Heroes & 1 Mile Fun Run  
Saturday, May 21, 2022



### Vendor Registration Form

We invite your organization/business to host a booth and distribute product samples, provide services, or distribute printed materials for *Alabama's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Salute & 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Memorial Run for Alabama's Fallen Heroes and 1 Mile Fun Run*. In order to process your registration as a vendor, please complete all sections of this form. Registration should be accompanied by a taxable deductible minimum donation of \$25 payable to:

Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc.  
Attention: Harry Sessaman, Secretary  
P.O. Box 661 • Chelsea, AL 35043

For additional information contact Cynthia House - 256-404-0203

(No deposit is required of Veterans Service Organizations, i.e.: American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps Leagues, DAV, etc.)

Deadline for Registration is Friday, May 13, 2022. Preliminary Schedule for Vendors - Friday, May 20, 2022, 12:00 - 4:00, vendors will be assigned and provided a number for your site location. You will be required to provide your own pop-up tent (that must be secured to the ground on Saturday), table and chairs.

All vendors/businesses MUST arrive at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park before 7:00 a.m., Saturday, May 21, 2022. Anyone not in park by this scheduled time will be required to wait until 9:00 a.m. to enter park (traffic entering park will be shut down during this time due to 5K Memorial Run for Alabama's Fallen Heroes and 1 Mile Fun Run). You **must** move your vehicle to event parking once your vehicle is unloaded on Saturday morning. Vendors may take down displays at 1:00 p.m.

Preliminary Race Day Schedule • Saturday, May 21, 2022 - 7:30 - 5K Memorial Run/Walk for Alabama's Fallen Heroes Begins • 7:35 a.m. - 1 Mile Fun Run begins • 9:00 - Awards Ceremony • Post-race activities - Enjoy the day at USS Alabama Battleship Park. Join us in honoring our military service members: *Those Who Serve, Those Who Have Served and Those Who Have Fallen In Service*. Activities provided for children and various service organizations for our military and Veterans. Day will begin with a Fallen Heroes Memorial Service honoring Alabama's fallen military service members who died since 9/11.

Contact Information Company/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor Information Type of Company/Organization: Non-profit: Yes ☐ No ☐

Describe your display: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be providing free items/products? If yes, what items/products? \_\_\_\_\_

Our event website is: [www.armedforcesdaymobile.com](http://www.armedforcesdaymobile.com) • Fun Registration can be found on Eventbrite

We are a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization



2/1/2022

As a sponsor, your organization/business is invited to host a booth to distribute product samples, printed materials, or provide services to distribute product samples, printed materials, or provide services

Alabama's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day Blue Star Salute and  
8th Annual 5K Memorial Run/Walk for  
Alabama's Fallen Heroes & 1 Mile Fun Run  
Saturday, May 21, 2021



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In order to reserve a space for you, please complete all sections of this form and return no later than Friday, May 13, 2022. Questions, contact Harry Sessaman - 205-769-9203.

Preliminary schedule for sponsor vendors - Friday, May 20, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., you will be assigned and provided a number for your site location. All vendors/businesses **MUST** arrive at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park before 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2022. Anyone not in park by this scheduled time will be required to wait until 9:00 a.m. to enter park (traffic entering park will be shut down during this time due to 5K Memorial Run for Alabama's Fallen Heroes and 1 Mile Fun Run).

NOTE: All vehicles **must** be moved to the event parking location after unloading on Saturday morning. Vendors may take down displays at 1:00 p.m.

Return form to:

Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc.  
Attn: Harry Sessaman  
P.O. Box 661, Chelsea, AL 35043

Contact Information Company/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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We are a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization



2/1/2022



**SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**  
**HISTORIC OAKLAWN MEMORIAL CEMETERY**  
**Honoring Community Leaders**  
**During Black History Month**

**VMRT**

**“Honoring our Veterans One Grave at a Time”**

**8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL RECOVERY TEAM**

*Honoring Our Veterans One Grave at a Time*

P. O. Box 347, Sateema, AL 36572

Ryan Barber, President (251) 605-1290

Neil Bruyn, Vt/Secretary (251) 605-1290

Sherri Deakle, Treasurer



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 10, 2022**

Contact: Veterans Memorial Recovery Team

Fran Barber, President

Phone: 251-605-1290

Email: [photographybyfran@gmail.com](mailto:photographybyfran@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.vmr.org/>

Location: Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery  
1850 Holt Rd., Mobile, AL 36617

Time: Saturday, February 5, 2022, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**HONORING COMMUNITY LEADERS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Veterans Memorial Recovery Team (VMRT) has scheduled a cleanup campaign at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery on February 5, 2022, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers are asked to meet in front of the military flag poles at the cemetery for a briefing Saturday, February 5, at 8:00 a.m.

All volunteers will be welcome, even if they cannot stay the entire day.

Oaklawn is the burial site for Mobilians such as Mattie T. Blount, a pioneer educator in Mobile; Josephine Allen, founder of the historic Allen Institute; Aline Jenkins Howard, first queen of the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association (MAMGA); Yvonne Kennedy was president of Bishop State Community College from 1964 until 2007. She also represented Mobile in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1979 until her death in 2012 and was a former chair of the State's Legislative Black Caucus; Capt. Leon C. Roberts, a pilot and member of the Tuskegee Armen, died in Italy in 1944 when his P-51 Mustang crashed. He is memorialized at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park; John Lafayette Finley, Jr. was a World War II Veteran, serving in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific and received The Bronze Star for meritorious service. John opened Finley's Pharmacy #1 in 1950, he and his brother, James H. Finley, Sr., established Finley's #2 in 1959. James eventually opened six stores launching the first African-American chain of drugstores in Alabama.

The rich history of those interred at Historic Oaklawn Cemetery deserves to be preserved.

***“The greatest way to honor our history is to never forget it, and to honor and care for those who took care of us!” -- Karlos Finley, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation veteran, USCG.***

**Bring water, snacks, gloves, rakes, weed eaters, lawn mowers, chain saws, wheel barrows, and other gardening tools. Mask are not required, there is plenty of room for social distancing. Long pants and tennis shoes or boots are strongly recommended, no open toed shoes.**

Children age 8 years and older are welcome, but be aware there may be some heavy equipment in the area.



Pictured: Joe Connick, Col Barrow, MGnySgt Cynthia House, Neil Bruyn, Fran Barber, Sherri Deakle

**VMRT presented certificates of appreciation to the  
MCPSS - JROTC**

“Despite the challenges imposed by the COVID pandemic, Mobile County’s JROTC cadets were able to perform an invaluable Service Learning project at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery! Sadly, the cemetery had fallen into serious disrepair over the years until a group of concerned veterans took on the job of restoration. Our cadets take a great deal of pride supporting this effort.”

**--Col Frank Barrow, Director of Army Instruction at  
Mobile County Public Schools.**







## GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club

There are so many worthy groups that demand the attention of volunteers who want to make a difference in their communities across America. One of those groups at the top of the list is our veterans, who sacrificed so much for our country. GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club in Baldwin County, Alabama, has been working with veterans for over thirteen years, and here are a few ways we have helped.

The GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club's association with veterans began in 2009 with the very first Honor Flight. That first year, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club member, Suellen Brazil, worked with Margaret Coley organizing welcome home activities for veterans returning to the airport in Mobile, AL. from their exciting trip to Washington DC. Suellen's father, Alto Brill and husband, Billy Brazil, made that first Honor Flight to our nation's capital.

Since that first Honor Flight, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club continued it's involvement in veterans programs and activities to include organizing and collecting cards for the Honor Flight Veterans from a local elementary school during the early years of the Honor Flights.

Over the years, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club members looked for creative and useful ways to support local veterans. In 2014, club members made No Sew blankets for the veterans. After bargain shopping for fleece, club members gathered to make the blankets as gifts for the William F. Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette.

The very next year, in 2015, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club began working with the Wreaths Across America project each year in coordination with Margaret Coley. Members of the club decorated the wreaths with flags and bows that first year, and since has maintained the wreaths each year before their placement at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The wreath project has become an annual project of the club.

Everyone loves a party, and veterans are no exception. GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club hosted a party for Veterans at the William F. Green State Veteran's Home in Bay Minette, AL in October, 2016, in honor them for their service to their country. Veterans enjoyed a party with cake, patriotic music, gift bags, and great fellowship. What a special time for all!

The American Meals for American Heroes project in November, 2019 was a huge success thanks to GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club members, the staff at William F. Green Veterans Home, and the employees at McDonald's in Bay Minette, AL. In addition to

handing out cheeseburgers and milkshakes provided through the partnership with McDonalds, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club members presented fidget pillows made by club members to the veterans in the memory care unit. It was an honor and privilege to spend time with veterans who served our country.

What an inspiring ceremony at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort, AL, on Saturday, December 18, 2021. On a gray day with rain barely holding off for the ceremony, Boy Scouts and Scout Leaders, Cub Scout Pack 87, the US Armed Forces Honor Guard, Pastor Jeff Spiller, guest speaker, Margaret Coley, Director Honor Flight South Alabama, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club representatives, and many guests and friends had high spirits for such a special moment. What an honor it was to be a part of this special day!

And the tradition continues, as GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club members are dedicated to their involvement with veterans programs in the future. We are always looking for "a few good women", so come join our efforts as we seek to serve our veterans.

Carol Cleveland

President, GFWC Jubilee Woman's Club



Arlington South 2021 - Carol Cleveland, Dianne Gunn with wreaths made by GFWC Jubilee Womens Club



Honor Flight Presentation at National Convention  
Perdido Beach - April 2013