

May 2022



# 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  
Lloyd 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 Atkison, Spiritus Ameritus SAVC*

**THERE WILL NOT BE A SCHEDULED (SAVC) COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY**

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

## Presidents Corner:



"We are moving into the summer months and things are getting really busy in the Veteran community. We have the Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute on 21 May; Veteran Town Hall at the Battleship on 23 May; Memorial Day events on 30 May at the Battleship at 0700 hrs. Virginia Street National Cemetery at 0830 hrs., Spanish Fort Veterans Cemetery Ceremony at 1100 hrs., etc. It is the etc. that really slips-up on you so stay tuned. **We will not have an SAVC meeting in May** due to the prep for the AFD & BSS event on Saturday, 21 May. We plan to have a planning meeting on 17 May for that event at 1000 hrs. at the Battleship to go over final plans for the event on Saturday. We would appreciate everyone to blast their social network to invite them to the events."

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

## Chaplains Corner:



Good morning! It's don't faint!  
Read Luke 18:1

"And he spoke a parable unto this end that men ought to always pray and not faint."

Heavenly Father thank you for the abundance of your goodness in our lives. Thank you that nothing that happens on this earth surprises You. And whatever You bring us to; You are able to carry us through. As we recognize (May) as mental health month, and we understand that so many of us Veterans, and our families suffers from these issues. We will always need prayer, but sometimes we need the pill too. So we refuse to give up, or stop praying. No matter how long it takes; our change is coming. It may have been meant for harm, but you will use it to our advantage. Because You are a God of justice, peace and love.

In JESUS' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC



## Veterans Recovery Resources

**Committed To Veterans Like You 251-405-3677**

Stringent training, deployments, frequent moves and, for some, combat, put unique stresses on our Veterans and their families. Our team of health professionals created a unique approach that speaks to a unique set of mental wellness challenges.



Joseph Snowden, USCG (Ret)

Executive Director, Administrative Services at City of Mobile was the guest speaker at the April meeting of SAVC.

Snowden started his military career with the Illinois Army National Guard, Infantry and Artillery. After 27 years of Active Duty in the USCG – Marine Safety Specialist who has completed tours on the East Coast, Gulf Coast, Great Lakes, and Western Rivers. He was successful in positions of management and leadership: Sector Commander, Marine Safety Detachment Supervisor, Executive Officer, and Prevention Department Head. He has coordinated multiple organizations to work towards a common goal – Hurricane Katrina, 9-11, Coordinated the largest recall of USCG Reserves since WWII, Ice Breaking Coordination with Canada (Operation Coal Shovel), Nationwide LNG Security and Transportation, led the administration of Maritime Port Security Grants. He served as Assistant VP of Campus Operations, Spring Hill College.

Snowden now works for the City of Mobile, his first position as Senior Director: Maritime and Transportation – Waterfront Coordinator. He is now the Executive Director of Administrative Services and Military Liaison for the City of Mobile.

**Listen to Joe Snowden's comments:**

[SAVC - 2022 - 19 April - photographybyfran](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:** June 17 ground breaking for the Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home, Enterprise, AL

**Col Patrick Downing (Ret) USA** reported on the ALDVA meeting, Battleship Park, and the Alabama State Veterans Cemetery.

**Listen to Col Patrick Downing's report:**

[SAVC - 2022 - 19 April - photographybyfran](#)

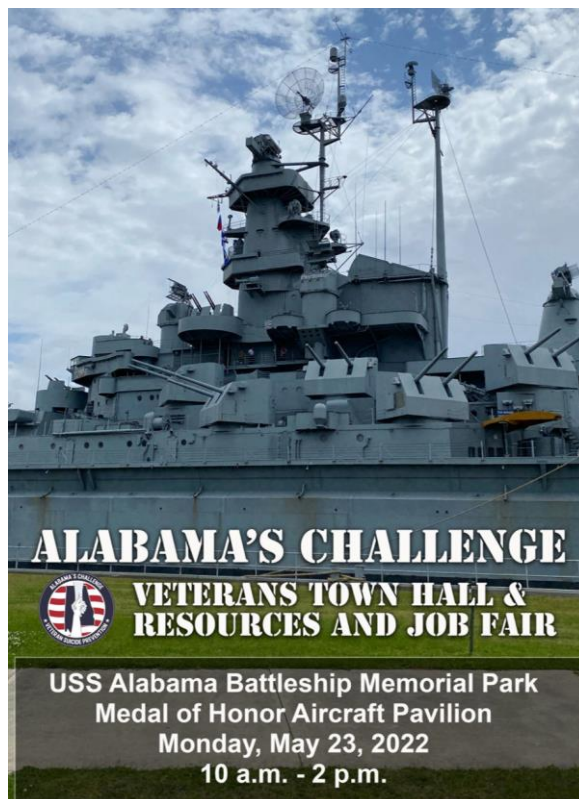
**Robert Horton, Asst. Commissioner Outreach and Engagement, ALDVA**

reported on the Town Hall Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE:** May 23 - Battleship Memorial Park - there will be a Veterans Job Fair following the Town Hall Meeting.

**Listen to Robert Horton's report:**

[SAVC - 2022 - 19 April - photographybyfran](#)



[Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1](#)

[Chat online](#)

[Text 838255](#)

## Armed Forces Day/Blue Star Salute Guest Speaker May 21, Battleship Memorial Park



**Brig. Gen. Michael T. Rawls**

The Commandant, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. The Air War College is the Air Force's senior professional military education institution, providing post-graduate senior leader development programs focused on joint, multinational, multi-agency warfighting and international security operations, air, space and cyberspace force strategy development and national security planning.

BG Rawls entered the Air Force in 1992 as a distinguished graduate of the University of Kentucky, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He holds Masters degrees from The George Washington University, Air University, U.S. Army War College and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School. Brig. Gen. Rawls has served in staff positions as the Junior Military Aide to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Chief Air Planner, United States Military Delegation to the NATO Military Committee, Brussels Belgium and Senior Service Lead for F-35 development, Arlington, Virginia. He has been a Squadron Commander, Vice-Wing Commander, 435th Air Expeditionary Wing and 435th Air Ground Operations Wings Commander and is a four time member of the U.S. Military Pentathlon Team. As an operational pilot, Brig. Gen. Rawls flew the A-10A/C and F-15C with combat missions in Iraq supporting Operation Southern Watch. As a Test Pilot, he had assignments in the A-10C, F-15C, F-16 and numerous classified platforms conducting advanced weapons development. Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Rawls served as the Deputy Commander,

NATO Mission Iraq, Baghdad. Brig. Gen. Rawls is a command pilot and has accumulated more than 2,100 hours in 30 different aircraft



The Blue Star Salute Foundation Inc. and the South Alabama Veterans Council will host its 8th Annual Memorial 5K Run/Walk & 1 Mile Fun Run for Alabama's Fallen Heroes and its Armed Forces Day Celebration / 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Salute on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park, 2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile, AL 36603. The run will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the Celebration/Salute will begin at 10:30 a.m.

The 5K Certified race runs along the Causeway and starts and finishes at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park. Each runner's race bib will bear the name of one of Alabama's Fallen Heroes since 9/11/01. You also have the opportunity to list your own Hero as well. This is the **only race** in this region of its kind. Growing every year, don't miss the opportunity to show that you "will never forget" and to run in Honor of one of Alabama's Fallen Heroes. Names of the fallen are listed on the 5K Run Shirt so don't miss out on the opportunity to order one. For \$15 you can be a Blue Star Salute Supporter and get a t-shirt without running. On-line registration can be completed at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). Forms are also available for pick-up at McCoy Outdoors, Run-N-Tri or Fleet Feet in Mobile, AL or Running Wild in Fairhope, AL.

***Please help us honor Alabama's Military Veterans by making a donation to the Foundation for the event or consider a Sponsorship.***

## The Looming National Security Crisis: Young Americans Unable to Serve in the Military

### SUMMARY:

The military depends on a constant flow of volunteers every year. According to 2017 Pentagon data, 71 percent of young Americans between 17 and 24 are ineligible to serve in the United States military. Put another way: Over 24 million of the 34 million people of that age group cannot join the armed forces—even if they wanted to. This is an alarming situation that threatens the country's fundamental national security. If only 29 percent of the nation's young adults are qualified to serve, and if this trend continues, it is inevitable that the U.S. military will suffer from a lack of manpower.

**71 percent of young Americans between 17 and 24 are ineligible to serve in the military—that is 24 million of the 34 million people of that age group.**

The military depends on a constant flow of volunteers each year; as the number of eligible Americans declines, it is increasingly difficult to meet military needs.

**A manpower shortage in the United States Armed Forces directly compromises national security.**

[The Looming National Security Crisis: Young Americans Unable to Serve in the Military | The Heritage Foundation](#)

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**VFW Opens Annual Youth Patriotic Scholarship Contests** The programs award more than \$3 million to middle and high school students

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 2022-23 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. America's high school students will be required to answer, "Why Is the Veteran Important?" while middle school students will have the opportunity to declare, "My Pledge to Our Veterans."

This year's winner, Daniela Mare, was sponsored by VFW Post 9486 and its Auxiliary in Centereach, New York. [Listen to her award-winning audio-essay here.](#)

Open to all students in grades 6-8, more than 68,800 students participate annually in the Patriot's Pen essay competition. Syed Ali, the 2021-2022 Patriot's Pen first place winner, was sponsored by VFW Post 521 and its Auxiliary in New Iberia, Louisiana. [Listen to his award-winning entry here.](#)

Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is Oct. 31, 2022.

Find your local [VFW Post](#), or [read more about the contests.](#)

## May

### National Military Appreciation Month

A month to recognize and show appreciation to the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

#### May 1, 2022- Loyalty Day

A day set aside for American citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom. [Learn more...](#)

#### May 1, 2022 - Silver Star Service Banner Day

A day set aside to honor our wounded, ill, and dying military personnel by participating in flying a Silver Star Banner. [Learn more...](#)

#### May 5, 2022 - National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. [Learn more...](#)

#### May 6, 2022 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day

A day set aside to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of the U.S. Armed Forces. [Learn more...](#)

LINK - [Practical insights in caring for a military home front family](#)

#### May 8, 2022 - VE (Victory in Europe) Day (Celebrated May 7 in commonwealth countries)

A day which marks the anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II on May 8, 1945. [Learn more...](#)

#### May 8, 2022 - Mother's Day

LINK - [Organizations that support deployed military personnel on Mother's Day](#)

LINK - [Coloring page for military children](#)

#### May 12: Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day, [Military Spouse Appreciation Day](#) celebrates the sacrifice and support of military spouses. The holiday began in 1984 under Ronald Reagan, and subsequent presidents have begun the day with speeches or proclamations.

#### May 13, 2022 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day

A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind – especially their children. It's a reminder to the community that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots. [Learn more...](#)

#### May 21, 2022 - Armed Forces Day

A day set aside to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the United States' Armed Forces. [Learn more...](#)

#### May 30, 2022 - Memorial Day (Decoration Day)

A day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States. Typically recognized by parades, visiting memorials and cemeteries. [Learn more...](#)

**Dent Boykin displayed the AFD/BSS banner at the Military Vehicle Show, Battleship Memorial Park**



For the past ten years, Baldwin County, AL has participated in the annual Memorial Day Flag Relay. This year will be no exception.

**USS Alabama Memorial Day Flag Relay**

Join us on the fantail of the USS ALABAMA to welcome the relay team from the Memorial Day Flag Relay. This run of remembrance will end aboard the USS ALABAMA with a flag touch and prayer.

**“Bells of Peace”:**

**A World War I Remembrance** is a national tolling of bells in honor of those who served and sacrificed during WWI. It takes place annually on the 11th hour (local) of the 11th day of the 11th month. That is the same moment when in 1918 the guns fell silent and the fighting ceased on the Western Front.

**TOLLING OF THE BELLS**

On Monday, April 11, 2022, the USS DRUM on Battleship Memorial Park the first annual “Tolling of the Boats” Ceremony was held in remembrance of over 4,000 submariners and the 52 submarines lost during WWII.



USS DRUM SS 228

The USS *Drum* (SS-228), a Gato-class diesel-electric submarine, has been at home in Mobile, Alabama for nearly 40 years now. Since opening as a museum on July 4, 1969, the *Drum* has been a silent reminder to thousands of visitors of the 52 submarines and over 3,600 submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice in WWII. Still, many people throughout the southeast United States have no idea such a rare naval WWII icon is right in their own back yard.

Sitting in her cradle beside Mobile Bay is the National Historic Landmark WWII submarine USS DRUM (SS-228). The DRUM is the oldest American submarine on public display, visit the Drum and learn about her 72 member crew and her missions during the war. Be sure to ask about Stateside, the crew’s pet dog who served aboard the submarine.

USS DRUM was donated to the USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission on April 14, 1969 and was brought to Mobile to join the USS ALABAMA at Battleship Memorial Park as a war memorial and museum.

## **2022 Military Appreciation Month Discounts**

### [Blue Star Museums](#)

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel, including the National Guard and Reserves, and their families. The 2022 Blue Star Museums program begins on Armed Forces Day (May 21) and ends on Labor Day (September 5).

### [Cincinnati Zoo](#)

All members of the military will receive free admission on Memorial Day. The offer also allows military personnel to purchase up to six half-price admission tickets for members of their immediate family.

### [Colonial Williamsburg](#)

Active-duty military, Reservists, National Guard personnel, retired military and veterans receive complimentary admission once annually for themselves and up to three direct dependents on either Memorial Day weekend or Veterans Day weekend.

### [Indianapolis Zoo](#)

Current and former members of the military are admitted free on Memorial Day.

### [Magic Springs Theme and Water Park](#)

Magic Springs is saluting members of the military with free admission May 28 through June 12. Bring your military ID to any ticket window. Family members receive \$36.99 admission when accompanied by a military member.

### [Rack Room Shoes](#)

Rack Room Shoes offers a 20% discount off your entire purchase in stores on Memorial Day to anyone with a military ID.

### [Silverwood Theme Park](#)

Military personnel and veterans with ID receive free admission to Silverwood Theme Park on May 28, 29 and 30, 2022. Their immediate family members (spouse and children) also receive a special discounted rate when purchasing tickets at Silverwood's front gate.

### [Splashway Waterpark and Campground](#)

Active military, veterans, and their immediate family members (spouse and children) can purchase discounted tickets or Season Passes at the gate with their valid ID on Memorial Day.

### [Sun Splash Family Waterpark](#)

On Memorial Day, May 30, active and retired military members with ID receive one free admission ticket.

## **FROM FACEBOOK: Jesse Andrews Jr. Detachment, Marine Corps League - 2022 Alabama Marine Corps League State Convention**

Kenya Thomas wrote:

After months and months of planning, the 2022 Alabama Marine Corps League State Convention has come to an end and was a great success!! (It was hosted by the Jesse Andrews, Jr. Detachment and the Cpl. Joseph Whitehead Detachment.) It was held at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach. Thank you to all of the committee members who took a lot of time out of their busy schedules to make this year's convention one that members were saying at the banquet, was one of the best ones ever!!! 😊 This includes Bonnie (a huge THANK YOU) and Jim Ribley, Bill and Loretta Reecer, Craig and Shelli Paul, and Brian and Gena Lucas from the Cpl. Joseph Whitehead Detachment who we co-hosted the event with. They are wonderful to work alongside and are beautiful people inside and out.

I would also like to thank our members: Lew Thomas (my hubby), Aaron Henriques, Bob King, Jerry Cherne, Herschel Mason, Doug Mansmann, Diane and Bob Mace, Tammy and Richard Tammy Richard Firth, and of course our own John Cutright who won Associate of the Year!!!



## **Kenya Thomas is at Greer's Fairhope Market. March 20 · Fairhope**

It was an absolutely gorgeous weekend and what better way to spend it than to spend it with friends. Here are a few members from the Jesse Andrews, Jr. Marine Corps League Detachment from Daphne, AL participating in The Fairhope Arts and Craft Festival. A "Huge" Thank You goes out to the owners and managers of Greer's Market in Fairhope: Gay Mueller, Tanner Atchison, and James Shifflett for allowing us to set-up our (new) canopy in their parking lot. This allowed us a chance to raise some funds for our local veterans in need. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to be there. Thanks to all the JAJ members who came out and volunteered their time to help further our mission and Thank you to our member, Doug Mansmann for doing the leg work to get us there!!



## Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

### Mobile Chapter #33

#### Scholarship Award Program 16 April 2022 Montford Point Marine "Legacy" Scholarship (\$1000.00)

#### J. Gary Cooper Montford Point Marine Scholarship (\$1000.00)

From Col Robert Franklin Barrow:

"Last night I had the privilege of serving as the keynote speaker for the Mobile Chapter of the Montford Point Marines Association Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony! It was a wonderful evening and I was surprised when a former cadet of mine from my days at LeFlore High School introduced me to the audience...Ms. Lindsey Jackson made my day with her kind words! A huge shoutout to Master Gunnery Sergeant Cynthia LaRose House for inviting me! Congratulations to each of the scholarship winners!"

#### Winners of the Montford Point Marine "Legacy" Scholarship

Jadrionna L. Clipper  
B.C. Rain High School

McKenzie D. Longmire  
Murphy High School

#### J Gary Cooper Montford Point Marine Scholarship Honorable Mention

Ashanti E. M. Young  
John L. LeFlore High School

#### Outstanding "Montford Point Marine" Essay

Tsepo T. Mdluli  
Mattie T. Blount High School



Mobile, AL Chapter of The Montford Point Marine Association, a nonprofit Veterans organization dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of the original Marines of Montford Point. [montfordpointmarines.org](http://montfordpointmarines.org)





**Leigh Ann Johnson** is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) with more than 25 years of experience in psychotherapy. She attended St. Louis University, where she completed undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Social Work and a Master's Degree in Social Work. She is licensed in both Alabama and Florida. Her specialty areas include Recovery from Depression, Grief, Anxiety, Interpersonal Trauma, and Veterans Issues.

Leigh Ann brings extensive field experience to her clients at Collins Counseling & Associates. Her prior roles have allowed her to provide counseling and Social Work services to children, Veterans, high-risk pregnancy patients, postpartum women, and the families of those seeking counseling care. Throughout her career, she has worked at faith-based organizations, government agencies, and in private practice as she has served those seeking help for Depression and Anxiety.

Today, Leigh Ann finds joy in helping her clients improve their emotional, social, physical and spiritual health. Her practice involves a multi-faceted approach, and she has trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Interpersonal Therapy for Depression (IPTD), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBST). Her ability to employ various therapy methods allows Leigh Ann to find the most effective form of counseling for each client.

Leigh Ann is a Gulf Coast Native and now lives in Baldwin County, Alabama. Her family has deep ties to the military and includes many active and retired service members. Leigh Ann is available to meet with patients in person at our Fairhope Office, or by video for those who prefer telehealth sessions.

**Collins Counseling and Associates** is a multispecialty agency with 12 Licensed Counselors who provide in person counseling at offices in Mobile, Fairhope, and Atmore Alabama. Counselors also provide Telehealth services throughout the state of Alabama. For information on all Collins Counselors please see <https://www.collinscounseling.org/counselors/>

Collins Counseling is approved to receive payment from many Insurance Companies as well as Medicare, Tri-Care, and VA Community Care.

**To schedule an appointment please call (251) 473-3410**

## VETERANS RECOVERY RESOURCES AND

### Helping 2 Overcome

The Team keeps growing!



Check out our YouTube Channel. Lots of great info and more to come.

<https://www.youtube.com/.../UConoEDZAV5mPRT6QMcs.../featured>

[Veterans Recovery Resources - YouTube](#)

Healing does not only happen in clinics and offices. Our **Helping 2 Overcome** team spent a day at the **Georgia Aquarium** with 16 veterans and their family members. These veterans had the chance to experience two amazing Dive Interactions, while seeing firsthand how scuba diving can help calm, and soothe a troubled mind.

To learn more or to sign up for one of our many scuba courses, trips, and other activities visit

<https://vetsrecover.org/h2o/>



**SAVE THE DATE! May 7**

Learn more and register for the Reelin' It In For Vets Fishing Tournament here:

<https://vetsrecover.org/reelin-it-in-for-vets-fishing.../>  
[Reelin' It In For Vets Fishing Tournament | Facebook](#)

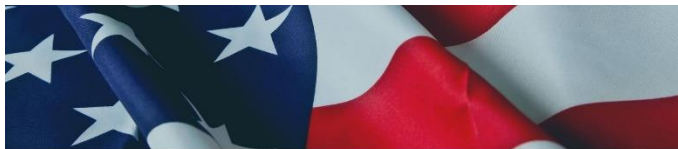
## The History of Armed Forces Day

On Aug. 31, 1949, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate [Army](#), [Navy](#) and [Air Force](#) Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the armed forces under one agency -- the Department of Defense.

In a speech announcing the creation of the day, President Truman "praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas." He said, "It is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace."

In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of Feb. 27, 1950, Truman stated:

"Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 1950, marks the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, toward the goal of readiness for any eventuality. It is the first parade of preparedness by the unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense."



## Military Appreciation Lunch

May 10, 2022 | Noon to 1:30 p.m.  
USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park



## 2022 Military Appreciation Lunch

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 12:00 Noon until 1:30 PM

at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park. The lunch will showcase active and veteran military members and awards will be presented to and by all branches of the military and recognition of distinguished JROTC & ROTC cadets.

- \$50 for members AND active/retired military
- \$75 for general admission

Register online at

[bit.ly/militarylunch](https://bit.ly/militarylunch)

To purchase an entire table or to purchase individual tickets you can call or email Carolyn Wilson – [cwilson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cwilson@mobilechamber.com) – 251.431.8606

To purchase individual tickets, you can use this [Registration Link](#)

[Military Appreciation Lunch | Facebook](#)

## VOTE!

If you plan on voting absentee in this year's elections, be aware of this list of deadlines!

Learn more about absentee voting at

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



## Absentee Voter Deadlines:

- Applications returned by mail due May 17
- Applications for a voter who requires emergency treatment by a licensed physician due May 19
- Applications returned by hand due May 19
- Ballots returned by hand due May 23
- Ballots returned by mail due May 24

## MOBILE MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY

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Saucy Q Bar B Que

1111 Government Blvd—Mobile AL

**NO SCHEDULED MEETING IN MAY**  
**THE AFD/BSS PLANNING TEAM WILL BE AT**  
**BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK**  
**MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR**

**ARMED FORCES DAY**

**MAY 21**