



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

Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkeison, Spiritus Emeritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- December 20, 2022 - 8:30 a.m. - Saucy Q

1111 Government St-Mobile AL

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

Presidents Corner:



"Time continues to race by and here we are at the end of 2022. Looking back, it has been a busy Veteran Year.

The SAVC has accomplished a lot. We have organized and participated in several Veteran events and activities, distributed grants to Veteran Support Organizations, been active in local community programs, and conducted monthly meetings and newsletters to keep our Veterans informed and connected. We are busy lining up programs and projects for 2023 and look forward to the new Veteran Year.

During this busy Christmas Season let us remember our troops who are guarding the gates of freedom. Also, remember our Veterans who have served. I hope you will remember to do some Buddy-Checks from time to time. Call a buddy and wish them a Merry Christmas or Hanukkah.

On behalf of the SAVC staff, we wish you a great and safe Holiday Season.

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

Chaplains Corner:



Good morning!
It's a gift to all people; 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. The Bible focuses on the event that took place: the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. The King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is the reason for the season. The good news is a cause 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; who gave his very best gift, his SON For all people.

Have a Merry Christmas In Jesus' Name Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC





Flags of Glory Veterans Day Tribute Opening Ceremony - Sunday, November 6 Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery

“Flags of Glory” is a week-long tribute in honor of America’s military service personnel. Presented by Mobile Memorial Gardens in conjunction with the South Alabama Veterans Council. More than 250 full-sized U.S. flags were placed along the central roadway as a free drive-through display during the week of Veterans Day. Each flag was sponsored in honor of a veteran or active service member.

Flags of Glory Service Award presented to US Sea Cadet Corps Dunlap Division and Theodore High School JROTC Unit



Julius Powell, JROTC Cadet Crocker,
Lou Lartigue, Col Frank Barrow



Julius Powell, US Sea Cadet Corps Dunlap Division



The Spotlight Awarded was presented to USCG Electronic System Support Divisions
Julius Powell, USCG Shulga – ESSD, Lou Lartigue



American Legion Post 250 Honor Guard



Patriot Guard Riders



USS Alabama Crewmates



South Alabama Veterans Council & Mobile Memorial Gardens - Thank you, Bryant Bank, for your contribution to The Flags of Glory.

Pictured: Lou Lartigue, President of the South Alabama Veterans Council, Julius Powell, Mobile Memorial Gardens, Neil Bruyn, SAVC, Fran Barber-Bruyn, SAVC, Valerie Ellis, Michael Holland, Renea Davis of Bryant Bank, Mobile, AL

Mobile Chamber of Commerce viewing area for the Veterans Day Parade



Pictured: Bradley Byrne, CEO of Mobile Chamber; Colonel Steve Carey, USAF (Ret) President, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission

Excerpt from the November issue of the BUSINESS VIEW Mobile Chamber

"During my time in Washington, DC, the work I did with the military was inspirational. The Mobile Chamber has always worked with local military leaders to promote veterans' resources, military appreciation events, and luncheons and even tapped business leaders to get involved. We've had some great experiences with the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission. The work they do is so rewarding."

Bradley Byrne, CEO of Mobile Chamber

"The Commission is pleased, this year, to have our renewed relationship and to be supported by the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, and CEO Bradley Byrne."

Col Steve Carey, USAF (Ret) President, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission

[11 2022.pdf \(mobilechamber.com\)](#)



Pictured: Layton Little, Grant Carrera, Bradley Byrne, Richard Stimpson, Mobile Chamber of Commerce.



Mobile Bay Veterans Day Commission

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission was organized in 1986 with the purpose of energizing the area's Veterans Day commemoration. The organizers were Admiral J. Lloyd "Doc" Abbot, USN (Ret.), Admiral Bill Stewart, USCG (Ret.), Captain Hal Pierce, USN (Ret.), and Lieutenant Colonel Vince Schiavoni, USAF (Ret.).

The Mayor of Mobile was invited to be Chairman of the Commission and other distinguished military officers and civilians of the area were also invited to be part of the Commission. The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce CEO was also invited to be on the board and the Chamber was involved with it from the very beginning. Their plan was to have a Veterans Day parade through downtown Mobile and have an Honors Luncheon where a Patriot of the Year would be recognized. That recognition was to be the highlight of the Veterans Day observance. Today, the award is presented at the luncheon where a nationally recognized patriot is honored.

Since 1997, a Veteran of the Year is selected and also recognized at the Honors Luncheon. The Veterans Day Observance now includes the Parade of Flags ceremony in the afternoon and a patriotic concert in the evening presented by the Mobile Pops Orchestra, both at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park Medal of Honor Pavilion.

Since 2001, at the Patriot Dinner, on the evening before Veterans Day, the Commission has recognized one or more Mobile Bay Area citizens who have supported our veterans and veteran causes by presenting them with the President's Award. This year the name of that award was changed to the Captain Hal Pierce Memorial Award.



Miss University of Mobile: Michaela Johnson

Honors Luncheon on Veterans Day for the Patriot of the Year, LtGen Willie Williams, USMC (Ret), and Veteran of the Year, LTC Frank Barrow, USA (Ret)



Col Steve Carey, USAF (Ret), MG Sheryl Gordon, LtGen Willie Williams, USMC (Ret), LTC Frank Barrow, USA (Ret), Mayor Sandy Stimpson



The Captain Hal Pierce Memorial Award was awarded to *Beverly K. Moritz and Eddie Irby, Jr.* Capt Hal's grandson, Alexander Veronsky, presented the plaques to the honorees.

This year, the Veterans Day Commission began a new tradition of honoring two Distinguished ROTC cadets from the US Airforce ROTC and US Army ROTC



James Barber, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, presented the awards to USAF ROTC Outstanding Cadet of the Year Cadet Melanie Watson and Army ROTC Outstanding Cadet of the Year Cadet Lorenzo Kyles.

Mobile Montford Point Marine Corps Association Military Ball in celebration of the United States Marine Corps 247th birthday Nov. 12, 2022

Presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal at the Mobile Montford Point Marine Corps Association Military Ball in celebration of the United States Marine Corps 247th birthday in honor of memorializing the legacy of the first African Americans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1941 to 1949 at Camp Montford Point, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Private First-Class Albirtues Woods posthumously received the Congressional Gold Medal signed by Former President Barrack Obama. Steven Woods, his son received the award on his behalf. Guest Speaker was CW5 Ret, Marine James Averhart, National President for MPMC Association.



National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.
Special President's Award Presented to
Fran Barber-Bruyn

The honor was presented at the Montford Point Marine Birthday Ball The Special President's Award is given to honor civic achievement or outstanding service (national or local) to the National Montford Point Marine Assoc., Inc.



Pictured: Fran Barber-Bruyn, and CW5 Dr. James T Averhart, President Montford Pont Marine Assoc, Inc.

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

Battleship Memorial Park would like to congratulate the winners of the 2022 Veterans Day Essay Contest. Mobile County:

1st Place - Audrey Howard - UMS-Wright Preparatory School

2nd Place - Paisley Adams - Dawes Intermediate School

3rd Place - Vera Kennedy - Cypress Grove Academy Baldwin County

1st Place - Madelyn Massingill - Perdido Elementary School

2nd Place - Jackson Robertson - Daphne East Elementary School

3rd Place - Isaac Barton - Belforest Elementary School

These students won cash prizes for their essays and also earned money for their classroom. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the students who participated in this year's Veterans Day Essay Contest.

TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION POINT – Battleship Memorial Park



Pictured: Jennifer Pierce

BMP is happy to serve as a donation site again this year for the Toys for Tots holiday toy drive. If you would like to donate, please bring a new and unwrapped toy to the Gift Shop or Ticket Office. We will be accepting donations until mid-December. Donations will go to the children in the Mobile area. Thank you and happy holidays!

The Exchange Club of Mobile AL



Thank a Veteran, the Exchange Club had another stunning installation of their Field of Valor. Each of the 300 American flags flying on the field is tagged with the names of veterans and active-duty military. The Daphne High School ROTC volunteered their time to install the Field of Valor.



MG Janet L. Cobb, USA (Ret.)

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

BMP is pleased to announce that executive director, MG Janet L. Cobb, USA (Ret.) has been appointed to serve on the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission. The Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission was created by the Senate Joint Resolution. The purpose is to plan, promote and implement public celebrations and commemorations of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. Congratulations MG Cobb.

Noah's Ark Pantry program at

USCG – ATC - Mobile, AL

CONTACT:

SK2 Taylor Coleman

Taylor.M.Coleman@uscg.mil

989 464 8817



Thank you for inquiring about Noah's ARK.

Anything is appreciated.

*Most of the time people are looking for
infant/toddler equipment such as
bouncers, baby strollers, car seats
things of that nature.*

*Whenever we've gotten anything
like that donated it's the first to go.
Clothes and shoes are always great as
well as bottles pacifiers that kind of thing.*



From Joe Mc's the 2017 Christmas Collection

Gift of Love and Faith at Christmas

*My gift of life His love has wrought,
To fill my soul with endless thoughts.
The how and why His Son has shown
To follow His path He must be known.*

*God's love is s strong and true,
With you today & all year through.
His redeemer Child in a manger lay,
To save our souls on judgment day.*

Joe Mc Coleman
JOMAC - Poetry in Action



Ring of Hope Christmas 2022

During the holiday season, *Ring of Hope* seeks to provide *love and hope* to children/families of need....the "least of these" ...seniors and veterans

The following are ways to be involved

Angel Tree

*Adopt a child for Christmas. Make small dreams come true for a child in need. *Adopt a veteran from Green Veterans Home.

Christmas Dinner

Provide a gift card for Christmas Dinner. Make a donation to a family in need who would otherwise be unable to purchase Christmas food.

Socks/Hats/Blankets for the Homeless

Many homeless individuals live under bridges in Mobile County. Socks and caps would give them the extra warmth needed during the winter months.

Hygiene Kits/Underwear/Socks for Elementary Students

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, etc. Huge need for underwear, and socks for area school kids.

Shoes For Kids

Purchase a pair of shoes for a needy child at Christmas, or donate a gift card/money. All children's sizes are needed.

Mail Call...Christmas Cards for Veterans

Bring joy to a veteran...Names provided

Ring of Hope

**Contact: Margaret Coley 463-4576,
margaretcoley@bellsouth.net
All donations are tax-deductible.**



Holiday Season 2022: Military Shipping Deadlines

AE ZIPs 090-092

- Retail Ground Mail: Nov. 5
- Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- First-Class (letters and cards) and Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- Priority Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 16

AE ZIP 093

- Retail Ground Mail: Nov. 5
- Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- First-Class (letters and cards) and Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- Priority Express Mail Military Service: None

AE ZIP 094-099

- Retail Ground Mail: Nov. 5
- Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- First-Class (letters and cards) and Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- Priority Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 16

AE ZIP 340

- Retail Ground Mail: Nov. 5
- Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- First-Class (letters and cards) and Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- Priority Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 16

AP ZIPs 962 - 966

- Retail Ground Mail: Nov. 5
- Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- First-Class (letters and cards) and Priority Mail: Dec. 9
- Priority Express Mail Military Service: Dec. 16

*Note: Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) and Space Available Mail (SAM) services are no longer available.

Domestic Mail (any U.S. address that is not an APO/FPO)

- Retail Ground: Dec. 17
- First-Class: Dec. 17
- Priority Mail: Dec. 19
- Priority Express: Dec. 23

Domestic Mail to Alaska

- Retail Ground: Dec. 2
- Priority Mail: Dec. 17
- First-Class: Dec. 17
- Priority Express: Dec. 21

Domestic Mail to Hawaii

- Retail Ground: None
- First-Class: Dec. 17
- Priority Mail: Dec. 17
- Priority Express: Dec. 21
- It is recommended you check with local civilian or military post offices for information regarding size restrictions and customs declaration form requirements. Mailing restrictions apply and some items cannot be mailed. If in doubt, contact your local civilian or military post office.
- As a final note, customers should ensure articles are packaged properly for mailing and packages do not display markings related to any type of hazardous material, such as bleach, alcohol, or cleaning fluids. Parcels found by U.S. Postal Service with such markings or labels on the outside of the box will not be processed.



EARLY PRE-REGISTRATION
ADMISSION- USS ALABAMA
BATTLESHIP GRUDGE MATCH
12/3/22
\$5.00



KNIFE MAKING GRUDGE MATCH AT THE BATTLESHIP

FEATURING FORMER "FORGED IN FIRE" CONTESTANTS

Presented by: The Blacksmith Experience

When: Saturday, December 3, 2022

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, Mobile, Alabama

Former FORGED IN FIRE Champions & Contestants scheduled to Compete:

Derek Melton, S5E20	Britt Barnes, S7E25
Mike Deibert, S5E27	Brian Easterling, S7E32
Randy Caston, S6E16	Doc Shiffer, S7E32
Seth Borries, S6E26	Wes Crum, S8E36
Josh Howard, S6E28	Jojo Salyers, S9E9
Billy Salyers, S7E9	

More Information and Pre-Registration at:
www.forgingadifference.com

Cost: Suggested Donation: \$5

* The \$5 Donation registers you to win one of the knives being made at the end of the competition

* This is a Fundraiser to support the Non-Profit "Forging A Difference".
"Forging A Difference" uses Blacksmithing & Knife Making
to "Serve those who Serve".



Save yourself time waiting in line for this awesome event! Pre-registering not only helps speed up your time getting into the Grudge Match, but will also earn you (1) additional free raffle ticket! That gives you (2) chances, instead of just one, to win one of the knives being made that day!

Once you arrive at the event, you will be issued your Raffle tickets. There will be tables, and pens available to simply add your name and phone number to the tickets. Then as you stroll around the event and see what each maker is making, find the blade you would like to win, and simply drop your raffle ticket into that Knife Makers Bucket!

However, if you are not able to attend that day, please simply let us know what knife(s) you want to win. We will be doing Facebook Live feeds all day long so you will be able to see which knife you would like to win!

Kids under the age of (10) are free.

The event starts at 9 am and wraps up around 3pm.

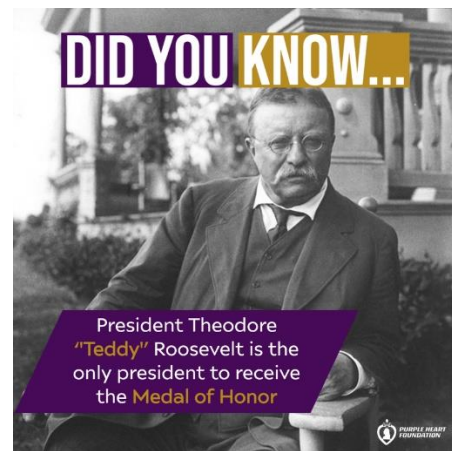
Purple Heart Foundation

What is SUD? SUD is Substance Use Disorder. Using drugs or alcohol is a common way for some people to try and cope with PTSD, even though it does not solve their issues and mostly makes things worse.

According to the VA, an estimated one in every ten to fifteen veterans suffers from a substance use disorder or addiction. And one out of every three veterans seeking treatment for a substance use disorder has PTSD.

You should get evaluated for PTSD or SUD if you continue to be troubled or distracted by your experiences for more than three months or have questions about your drinking or drug use. Learn more by visiting our resources page.

<https://purpleheartfoundation.org/resources/>



SDA was on display at the Honors Luncheon



Service Dogs Alabama –

Pictured: Caroline Sease, Service Dogs Alabama,
Jermaine Payne – Foster J Harrington MCL

South Alabama Veterans Council

Activities & Accomplishments

The Council is a coalition of Veteran Service Organizations, individual Veterans, and non-Veterans willing to offer support for Veterans' causes and interests. It was founded in 1994 to facilitate the coordination of efforts for these common causes and projects.

Annual Events:

- National Vietnam War Memorial Day Ceremony—29 Mar (BMP)
- Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute Events—20 May (BMP)

AFD/BSS events honor those who serve, have served, and those who have fallen in military service since 9-11. 5K Memorial Run and 1K Walk honoring those Fallen Heroes

- POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony—16 Sept BMP

Honoring those POW/MIA and the families of those MIA

- Flags of Glory—6 Nov (Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery)
The program is a joint effort between Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery and the South Alabama Veterans Council.
The display of more than 250 3' x 5' American Flags along the central circular roadway of the cemetery which serves as dramatic a drive-through or walk-through display.
An opening ceremony where awards are presented and the public can attend a ceremony dedicated to honoring Veterans and military service members during Veterans Day week.
- Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremonies—11 Nov (BMP)
At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at sunrise in honor of our veterans

Other Events:

- Sponsored effort to bring Vietnam Wall to Mobile. —2016 “The Wall That Heals”.
- Organized the “Gulf Coast Vietnam Veterans Salute.” —2012
- Conducted three Veterans Town Halls: Agent Orange, Veterans Employment Rights, PTSD & TBI Awareness.
- Participated in several Veterans Stand Downs.
- Co-Sponsored initial POW/MIA Day Event in Montgomery AL

Disbursement of funds:

- Disbursed Grants to over 30+ VSO, Community Support Organizations, and Veterans in need of over \$16k between 1999 and 2019.
- Disbursed Grants as above to over 25+ organizations and Veterans of over \$22k between 2020 and 2022.

Performed the functions of a Veteran Support Incubator or Think-Tank to generate and start such Veteran Support efforts as:

- WW II Veterans Honor Flight Program
- Key advocate for the establishment of the Alabama Veterans Cemetery



**South Alabama
Veterans Council**

PLEASE STAND BY: The South Alabama Veterans Council will be meeting at the US Coast Guard - ATC base, Mobile, AL in January or February, please stand by for more information.

American Legion Post 250 Fowl River

It is our honor and privilege to perform the final honors for our Veterans. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Post @ 251-973-1116 or email legionpost250@gmail.com.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 12/1 Civil Air Patrol Established (1941)
(USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- 12/5 Somalia Campaign Began (1992)
- 12/7 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor (1941) A day which
will live in infamy” Franklin D. Roosevelt 12/7
- 12/8 War Declared on Japan (1941)
- 12/11 Germany and Italy Declared War on the US
(1941)
- 12/13 National Guard Birthday
- 12/15 Official End of War in Iraq (2011)
Bill of Rights Day
- 12/16 Battle of the Bulge
- 12/17 National Wreaths Across America - An annual
laying of wreaths at veterans’ cemeteries
across the nation
- 12/20 Panama Campaign began (1989)
Space Force Birthday
- December 24, 2022 - Christmas Eve
- December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day
- 12/28 Anniversary of the Army Chaplain
Assistant/Religious Affairs Specialist
- 12/31 Official End of WWII (1946)/Kosovo Campaign
Ended (2013)

December 31, 2022 - New Year's Eve

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud! There’s been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing (email), vishing (phone), and social media scams targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf. Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.



BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS

On August 10, President Biden signed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) into law. This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending VA health care eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding benefits eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors



Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing (email), vishing (phone), and social media scams targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.

Do's

- ✓ You may submit your application securely [online](https://www.va.gov/PACT) via VA.GOV or in person at any Regional Office. You may file your claim directly with VA and then, VA will assist in gathering evidence necessary to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help. These companies may not be recognized by VA and may be attempting to charge illegal fees.
- ✓ Be cautious of aggressive companies who may try to pressure you to sign their contract through frequent communications or by insisting "you must act now or lose your chance for benefits."
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA or to have a special relationship with VA. Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- ✓ Validate: If you are interested in working with a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), agent, or attorney, use the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation tool](https://www.va.gov/OGC) to confirm and validate their credentials.

Don'ts

- ✗ Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your VA claim. If you need help filing a claim, there are representatives of VSOs, agents, and attorneys who have been [accredited by VA](https://www.va.gov/OGC) to assist you.
- ✗ Do not sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the completed form before signing and keep a copy for yourself.
- ✗ Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award. If they are defrauding the Federal government, you could be held responsible for paying those benefits back.
- ✗ Do not provide your social security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claims assistance before confirming their credentials using the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation tool](https://www.va.gov/OGC).
- ✗ Do not sign forms that are not [VA generated](https://www.va.gov/OGC) or third-party authorization for someone to provide "behind-the-scenes" claims assistance.

www.va.gov/PACT is the official source of PACT Act information.

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits. To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) [hotline](https://oig.va.gov) (oig.va.gov). File a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](https://www.fticonsult.com). Visit the [Cybercrime Support Network](https://www.va.gov/CybercrimeSupportNetwork) for additional resources to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-696-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)

Resources for Military & Veteran Families and Military Supporters (operationwearehere.com)



Then-1st Lt. Kelsey Hastings leads a platoon of Marines from Marine Barracks Washington while conducting military funeral honors for U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Hoover in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, Sept. 24, 2021. Hoover died on Aug. 26, 2021, as a result of an enemy attack while supporting non-combatant evacuation operations in Kabul, Afghanistan. Twelve other service members from the U.S. Marines Corps, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Army died in the same attack supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser/Arlington National Cemetery)

[The First Woman in the Marines' Silent Drill Platoon and the Family History That Led to Her New Command | Military.com](https://www.military.com)

What not to say to returning military personnel

by Andrea J. Westfall

These are general guidelines when interacting with a veteran and should not be considered absolutely true for every veteran. Every Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor that has been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Somalia, or any other combat theater has had a different combat experience.

How they deal with their experiences will vary depending on age, culture, faith, gender, community support, and the presence or lack of a family and/or social support system.

A combat veteran is not the same person they were before being deployed, and how the civilian population interacts with them can either help or hinder their transition.

FULL ARTICLE:

[Caring Insights Military Personnel
\(operationwearehere.com\)](https://www.operationwearehere.com/caring-insights-military-personnel)

So what do you say to returning military personnel?

Contributed by Josh Renschler
[Operation New Normal](#)

This is so important for everyone to understand. Soldiers are people; pushed to the extreme, yes, but still people.

Ask them how things have been for them since coming home.

- How is their marriage?
- How have they been dealing with the transition from post-deployment to home life?
- Do they have children... how is that going?

As you cover the same topics you would with any other person, you will open the doors for them to communicate what they need to.

- Assess their needs.
- Develop a prayer list.
- See if any of their needs can be aided by your church or known organization.

Stay away from talking about their work, because that is about as foreign as the Egyptian language.

Ivey Awards Grant For Coffee County Veterans Home

The \$350,000 grant will help with the building of the Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise.

By [Ty Storey](#)

Published: Nov. 14, 2022, at 9:39 AM CST

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (WTVY) - Alabama Governor Kay Ivey announced on Monday that she has awarded the Coffee County Commission with a grant to go towards the construction of a veterans home in Enterprise.

In a release from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), the \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant will help with the building of the Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home, the fifth veterans nursing home in the state.

The home, which will be located off Rocky Head Road in Enterprise, is expected to provide care for 174 veterans and create over 200 new jobs.

"We cannot and must not forget those who wore the military uniform and are responsible for the freedoms we enjoy today," said Ivey. "It is not only an honor but our duty to do what we can to ensure that our aged and infirmed veterans are cared for after all they have done for us."





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.

<https://alabamaveteransresourceguide.com/>

Alabama driver's license up for renewal soon?

Effective May 3, 2023, a STAR ID (or multiple forms of ID) will be required for domestic air travel or to enter military bases and regulated federal buildings. Read more at

<https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license/star-id>.

Battleship Memorial Park:

On Saturday, December 3, we will hold our annual donation drive for the William F. Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette. Each person who donates an item will receive \$2 off their admission ticket. The donation box will be set up in the Ticket Office.

WILLIAM F. GREEN STATE VETERANS HOME DONATIONS

Items Being Accepted

- Men's socks
- Long sleeve t-shirts - needed in 1X 2X and 3X
- Lap robes/fleece throws
- Tote bags
- Wall calendars
- Word books and cross word puzzle books
- Simple puzzles
- Individually wrapped snacks - think Little Debbie snack cakes
- Sugar free candy
- Nice soap and toiletries

Items Not Accepted

- Canned goods/canned food
- Frozen items
- Homemade baked goods



Deliver to Battleship
Memorial Park
December 3rd, 2022

988

988 is the new Suicide Prevention Hotline.

[Veterans for Hope | Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Veteran Suicide \(vetsforhope.com\)](#)



**ALABAMA'S CHALLENGE
FOR PREVENTING SUICIDE
AMONG SERVICE MEMBERS,
VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**THE VETERAN'S CRISIS LINE IS
1-800-273-5255 THEN PRESS 1.**



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.

**MOBILE MEMORIAL
GARDENS CEMETERY**
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES®



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



Saucy Q Bar B Que



1111 Government St - Mobile AL
SAVE THE DATE- December 20

SAVC meeting -Our meeting starts at 0830 a.m., but we like to gather earlier for breakfast or coffee and just talk about Veterans Stuff and what is going on. - Lou