



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 Atkinson, Spiritus Ameritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- November 15, 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:



"The SAVC meeting last month was very informative and productive. We thank Kindred Hospice and Jackie Barnett's team for the very interesting and helpful information on their program in support of Veterans. We encourage you to consider being a volunteer in their Veteran Program--it is a wonderful service to our Veterans in Hospice. Also, thank them for providing us with a great Saucy Q's Breakfast.

We are into planning and preparing for a busy Veterans Day series of events. We have the "Flags of Glory" on Sunday 6 Nov at 1400 hrs. at Mobile Memorial Gardens. We are also planning for the Flag Raising at the Vietnam Memorial at the Battleship Alabama on Friday 11 Nov at 0700 hrs. followed by the Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon.

Please let us know of the Veterans Day Events going on in your area so we can publish them to our Veterans and Citizens of South Alabama. I want to thank all our Veterans for their service to our country and hope you all have a very proud and enjoyable Veterans Day."

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

Chaplains Corner:



Good Morning!

It's "We salute them":

Read Hebrews 11:34

"Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness was made strong, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight."

"On this Veterans Day, we Salute our Men and Women who have *Sacrificed* for the freedom of our country.

(OUR VETERANS)

So many of them go unnoticed. Many of them are homeless and don't receive the proper medical attention that they deserve. Let's continue to make it our business to help our Veterans in need. We honor the ones that made the *Ultimate* sacrifice for our freedom.

Freedom is not free; it must be bought and paid for by someone. All gave some, but some gave All

We know that Jesus sacrificed his life for us so that we may be free. For whom the SON has made free, is free indeed. *Today, and every day. we thank God for our Veterans."*

In Jesus's Name Amen!

-Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC

40th Anniversary of the Wall

THE LEGACY ENDURES

In 1982, when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built and dedicated, a promise was made to never forget those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War.

This year marks 40 years since that promise was made and The Wall has become the symbol for an enduring legacy of healing, remembrance, and education.

The Reading of the Names – For the 7th time in our history, VVMF will host an in-person event where every single name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is read in the order of which it appears on The Wall. As part of the 40th-anniversary commemoration, the in-person Reading of the Names ceremony will take place in Washington, D.C. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and begins on November 7, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. EST. Thousands of volunteers will come to DC to take part in this special event that will end at midnight on November 10, 2022. **If you want to know when a name is going to be read, please visit our Wall of**

Faces: <https://www.vvmf.org/faces>



VVA JOE BIRINDELLI CHAPTER 864 A BRIEF HISTORY

The idea of a VVA chapter for our county came about due to the Lower Alabama Vietnam Memorial. This Memorial was an effort of love that had been started several years before I and others became involved in making it a reality. One by one, veterans from Korea, Vietnam, and even some came together to work on this remembrance of those Vietnam Veterans who gave all from our state and the adjoining counties of Mobile and Baldwin. Yes, young veterans helping the older veterans to build this special place of remembrance.

As we worked together through the week and on Saturday - as well as some Sunday work we talked. During one of these discussions, we realized that many of us who were taking time to get this most worthwhile project completed were from Baldwin County. The talks evolved into a full discussion about starting a VVA chapter in our county. Due to the support of our Mother Chapter, VVA Chapter 701, Mobile, Alabama,

and especially Tom Schwarz, President, we began the process founding of our chapter. The point of the spear of this project was Tom Schwarz and Joe Birindelli. Although we were all involved, it was these two veterans who took the bull by the horns.

The years of 1997 and 1998 would prove to be two years of hard work, disappointments, and a lot of tears as just we who served talked and remembered after a long day's labor about our friends who never came home from 'Nam. We shared mountain-top experiences and finally, a successful crossing of the finish line as our chapter came together.

As far as I can determine the first "unofficial meeting" of VVA 864 was held on November 17, 1999. We met at the VFW on Helen Street in Fairhope, Alabama.

Tom Schwarz, President of VVA Chapter 701, was present and offered any assistance to the group that he or our mother chapter could give to us as needed.

Our charter would be presented in October 1999. President Birindelli and VVA Chapter 701 President Tom Schwarz would be attending the Alabama State Veterans Council Meeting in Birmingham to receive the chapter charter.

Our new chapter was officially named: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 864. In February 2018, the chapter was renamed: Vietnam Veterans of America Joe Birindelli Chapter 864. We have seen our membership grow from the original charter members (23) to our current membership as of this date (October 2019) 69. We have also had the honor of adding members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America to our ranks

Our chapter meetings are held every 4th Tuesday at 1400 Hours (2:00 P.M.) of the month, January - October. We encourage anyone who desires to join us for a pre-meeting social ("Meet and Eat") at Café' Acadiana which is located on County Road 104 in Silverhill, Alabama. We welcome everyone who has the desire to attend our chapter meetings. Those Veterans who served our nation between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (Boots on the ground and "in country"), and any duty station between August 6, 1964 - May 7, 1975 qualify as Vietnam Veterans. The cost of life membership is \$100.00. Our chapter pays for the VVA and AVVA Life Membership Fee.

Ron Moore, VVA JOE BIRINDELLI CHAPTER
Secretary, Membership Chairman 10/2019



EVENTBRITE

Honors Luncheon tickets available on EVENTBRITE - The 2022 Veterans Day Luncheon hosted by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission will honor the Veteran and Patriot of the Year.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mobile-bay-area-veterans-day-honors-luncheon-fort-whiting-tickets-396310765167>
[How Americans fought to restore Veterans Day to November 11 | The National Constitution Center](#)

Congratulations to Lt Gen Willie J. Williams, USMC (Ret), Mobile Bay Area Patriot of the Year 2022. At the time of retirement, Williams had served his country for nearly 40 years.

 Patriot of the Year	 Veteran of the Year
 Willie J. Williams Lieutenant General, US Marine Corps Retired	 Robert F. Barrow Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Retired

Congratulations Lt Col Frank Barrow, Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year 2022 -Director of Army Instruction Mobile County Public School System JROTC.



*To Honor Those who Proudly Served,
Active, Retired, Guard & Reserve.
Enjoy the Freedoms They Preserved,
A THANK YOU that is Well Deserved.*

Joe McCormack
JOMAC - Poetry in Action

Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission is excited to announce this year's Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Sponsors. Join us on Veterans Day as we celebrate, honor, and remember those who have served and are currently serving, and who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

THANK YOU to our Sponsors of the 2022 Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Events



USS Alabama Battleship Blood Drive

Friday, November 11th
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Bloodmobile

Schedule an appointment at the link below:
https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/730235

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSO CVMA 28-6



The local chapter CVMA 28-6 pictured at the recent Region 1 Rally held in Gulfport, MS 44-1

Grants distributed by the South Alabama Veterans Council are made possible by CVMA 28-6

National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.



Mobile Chapter #33

*Celebrating the
Marine Corps 247th Birthday
&
Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony*

Guest Speaker

National Montford Point Marine Association President

Dr. James T. Averhart, Jr.

Chief Warrant Officer 5, United States Marine Corps (Retired)

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Cocktails at 6:00 pm Ceremony at 7:00 pm

Mobile Marriott

3101 Airport Blvd., Mobile, AL 36606

Checks made payable to
MPMA #33 can be mailed to:

P.O. Box 40477 Mobile, AL 36640

Email: mobile33@montfordpointmarines.org

Use Cash App: \$mpma33mobileal

[Register On Eventbrite](#)

Discounted room rates available through
15 October 2022
contact: PJ Rockwell at (251) 476-6400

Visit us @ www.facebook.com/mpmamobile33

~ Attire: Formal or military equivalent ~

"Special performance
honoring the Men
of Montford Point"

Tickets \$65.00



The Jackson (LCS 6) is the third ship in the Independence-class littoral combat ships and the first ship in the United States Navy named for Jackson, Mississippi. Construction began on August 1, 2011, with the first cutting of aluminum at Austal USA's Modular Manufacturing facility in Mobile, Alabama.

The littoral combat ship Jackson wrapped up its initial deployment — to U.S. 7th Fleet — this month, carrying out manned-unmanned operations with the [MQ-8C Fire Scout](#).

But after returning to its homeport in San Diego Oct. 15, the Jackson's days may be numbered.

Although Navy leaders plan to have more littoral combat ships operating in the Pacific over the next several years, the service's 30-year shipbuilding plan calls for [decommissioning the Jackson in 2024](#).

[LCS Jackson wraps up first deployment, with decommissioning on horizon \(militarytimes.com\)](#)

VA plans 'onboarding surge' in November to clear backlog of new hires

[Veterans Affairs officials](#) are planning a daylong "onboarding surge" event next month to finalize the hiring of [thousands of new employees](#) and find ways to speed up the process for future recruits.

The event, scheduled for Nov. 14, will bring together thousands of human resources specialists with medical center leaders to "push packages through" for individuals who have already been hired to fill key staff roles but have not yet completed requirements to start working, according to [Dr. Shereef Elnahal](#), VA Under Secretary for Health.

[VA plans 'onboarding surge' in November to clear backlog of new hires \(airforcetimes.com\)](#)



HONORING AND REMEMBERING A HERO: Past Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year Retired U.S. Marine Corps, Maj. Mordecia "Mawk" Arnold, a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, pictured with Col Patrick Downing, USA (Ret), also a past Veteran of the Year.



Flags of Glory Veterans Day Tribute Opening Ceremony

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - 2:00 PM

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, the event begins with a meaningful Opening Ceremony at 2 PM Sunday, November 6, under the oaks near the Three Notch Road Entrance to the cemetery.

More than 250 full-sized U.S. flags will be placed along the central roadway as a free drive-through display during the week of Veterans Day. Each flag may be sponsored in honor of a veteran or active service member

DOWNLOAD FORMS HERE:

[Flags of Glory - Mobile Memorial Gardens](#)

EVENT ON FACEBOOK:

[Flags of Glory Veterans Day Tribute Opening Ceremony | Facebook](#)



SAVE THE DATE: VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day Activities

Note: These events are subject to change by the organizer, Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission. Visit the organization’s Facebook page for updates on events - www.facebook.com/MobileBayVeterans/.

Raising of the Flag Ceremony

November 11 | 7 a.m.

Battleship Memorial Park, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile

Presented by the South Alabama Veterans Council. The event is free to attend. Open to the public.

Veterans Day Parade

November 11 | 10 a.m.

Mobile Civic Center, 401 Civic Center Dr, Mobile

A parade of veterans, floats and dignitaries will travel downtown Mobile streets in a celebration of our veterans.

Veterans Day Luncheon

Friday, November 11 | 12:00 noon

Fort Whiting Armory, 1630 S Broad St., Mobile

The luncheon will recognize and honor the 2022 Patriot of the Year, and the 2022 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year.



Marine Toys for Tots will be onsite at the Honors Luncheon collecting new, unwrapped toys for the less fortunate children of Mobile, AL.

Please help us bring hope to Mobile County children because every child deserves a little Christmas!

Veterans Day Celebration and Parade of Flags

November 11 | 3 p.m.

Battleship Memorial Park, Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion, 2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile

Come celebrate our local veterans. Fourth-grade students from Mobile and Baldwin County schools will present the Parade of Flags. Enjoy patriotic music, presentations, and essays by winners of the Veterans Day Essay contest. The 2022 Distinguished Young Woman of America will give the keynote address. Free admission. Open to the public.

Veterans Day Concert

November 11 | 7 to 9 p.m.

Battleship Memorial Park, Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion, 2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile

the Mobile Symphonic Pops Band will be performing a heartfelt collection of patriotic music and a special salute to veterans. Free admission. Open to the public.

U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center

ATC hosted 75 cub scouts and parents from Pack 84 at Walters Park over the weekend. CDR Joshua Wine provided a “Welcome Aboard” message and encouragement as an Eagle Scout himself, even assisting with judging the homemade boats during the “raingutter regatta competition”. The scouts and parents received a tour of the aircraft and facilities while learning about Coast Guard operations. OS2 Ashleigh Stewart explained our ATC response capabilities and operations center responsibilities while inspiring these young children to join!



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile

👁️👁️ Eye in the Sky 👁️👁️

Did you know the Coast Guard uses Short Range Unmanned Aerial Systems? The systems bolster response capabilities across mission sets. Here the system is used for the Pollution Response mission, but it can also be used in Aids to Navigation, Vessel Inspections, and Search and Rescue Missions! Sector Mobile has 8 qualified pilots! Shout out to MST3 Perkins, MST3 Bergstrom, and MST2 Grullon for their operations pictured.



U.S. Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team

GST provided equipment demonstrations and insight into hazard response to our next generation of service members, JROTC.

Photos by: MSTC Debrum



The GST is one of 3 Special Teams that make up the National Strike Force. It is a vital national asset comprised of a unique, highly trained cadre of Coast Guard professionals who maintain and rapidly deploy with specialized equipment and incident management skills at any time to any place or hazard.

The GST is recognized worldwide as an expert authority in the preparation for and response to the effects resulting from oil discharges, hazardous substance releases, weapons of mass destruction events, and other emergencies on behalf of the American public.

After Air Force takes hard line on PME, tech sgt. promotion eligibility nosedives



The number of airmen eligible for promotion to technical sergeant plummeted in 2017 to 25,552 — a decline of roughly 8,000-airman decline compared to the previous year, and the lowest eligibility in decades.

The previous record low for tech sergeant eligibility was in 2003, when 32,501 E-5s were considered for promotion. And for the past decade, at least 34,000 E-5s have been eligible for promotion each year.

Battleship 12K Where & When

Location: Mobile, AL 36601

Race Date: Sunday, Nov 13, 12:00:00 NOON (Sunday)

Please join Team RWB members from all over the country on Sunday, November 13 at the Battleship 12K. We will be available after the race to answer any questions concerning the organization.











The Battleship 12K is a simple point-to-point course. Runners start on Old Spanish Trail (Hwy 98) and turn right just past the old chamber of commerce to head down the hill. Runners will be in the southernmost eastbound lane and the emergency lane heading straight across Hwy 98 to the USS Alabama where they will be greeted with a patriotic welcome.






VETERANS DAY
Friday
November 11
10:00 am
the Town of
Silverhill
will be holding a
Veterans Day
Ceremony at the
Monument Park
Location
HWY 104 & HWY 55



The town of
Chatom, AL
is having its Veterans
Day Event on
November, 5th at
10:00 am at the
Veterans Memorial
on Highway 56 on the
east side of town.

Everybody is
welcome

fran



CITY OF PRICHARD

NOV. 11

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

MOTORCADE PARADE

START TIME: 3:00 pm

ROUTE ~ 1 MILE





Contact:
Melissa at m.clarke@thecityofprichard.org 251.414.6606
Pastor Barbara York at 251.454.0773
Pastor Patricia Zine at 251.525.4419

~Veteran's Day Prayer~

*A prayer solemn
We offer today;
It is for Veterans
We now pray.*

*Selfless, sacrificial,
Risking death gallantly
Soldiers do all this
To ensure we are free.*

*So many have died
There on the battleground;
No music then to comfort,
Simply gun blasts all around.*

*So many names and faces
That I will never know;
So many stories of bravery
In warring winds did blow.*

*Grateful am I to these
Men and Women brave -
To think of all they did,
All they risked, all they gave.*

*Extend this heartfelt prayer
I will, to reach their ears;
How treasured they are to me,
Marching onward despite fears.*

*And for those who have passed,
May God bless them lavishly
These very ones who died
So that we would live free.*

*In the stories of Veterans
We see a shadow of the Cross
Christ died to set us free,
Our gain was through His loss.*

*Gratefully we praise these heroes,
Often silent and unknown.
And we remember Christ's blood
From which eternal life has grown.*

©Caroline Gavin
Purposeful Pathway

1st Annual
Veterans Helping Veterans
Charity Auto and Motorcycle Show
P. L. Wilson Detachment 442 Marine Cor[League



Toys for Tots will be onsite Friday, Nov 11, at the Honors Luncheon, Fort Whiting, collecting new, unwrapped toys for the less fortunate children of Mobile, AL. Please help us bring hope to Mobile County, because every child deserves a little Christmas!



**GARDBERG &
KEMMERLY &**
Attorneys at Law



SAVE THE DATE!
September 15-16, 2023
Battleship Memorial Park

2nd Annual
Veterans Helping Veterans
Charity Auto and Motorcycle Show
P. L. Wilson Detachment 442 Marine Cor[League



UNITI FIBER “Proud to Serve” Friday, October 14 was a day of caring at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery by Uniti Fiber. “Proud to Serve” cleared a large section, it was a pleasure working alongside this dedicated group of people. – VMRT



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/>

November

- **National Veterans Small Business Week**
November 1 to 5 celebrates Veterans and their contributions to American small businesses.
- 11/10 US Marine Corps Established
- 11/11 Veteran’s Day/WWI Armistice Signed (1918)
- November 11, 2015 – Armistice Day (France)
- November 11, 2015 – Remembrance Day (Britain)
- November 11, 2015 – Remembrance Day (Canada)
- 11/23 USCG Women Reserve (SPAR’s) Established (1942)
- 11/21 Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)
- November 26, 2015 – Thanksgiving Day

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 & One

1111 Government St –Mobile AL
SAVE THE DATE– November 15

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