



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

Happy New Year!

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CAPT HAL PIERCE, SPIRITUS AMERITUS SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- January 18, 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:

It has been a busy and productive 2021. The SAVC has been out front and making things happen. We have had a number of successes to include 11 great meetings, AFD & BSS in May, Memorial and Veterans Day, and participation in other great events. We have also had some setbacks with the loss of Bill and other great Veteran supporters. We were jerked around by COVID but we overcame. I am proud of our team and looking forward to 2022. We continue to set the bar high and achieve our goals and I expect this year will see a very successful year. We have a full rucksack and we need to strap it on and make it happen. I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on Tuesday 18 January at Saucy Q's.

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



Chaplains Corner:

Happy New Year! **It's the new new for 2022!**

Read Luke 5:38 - "But new wine must be put into new wine skins, and Both are preserved."

Make room for the new daily truth! A certain satisfaction exists closing the chapter on one year and turning the page to a new one.

Jesus once shared a parable with the religious leaders. He pointed out that no one pours new wine into old wineskins; the wine would spill out and the wine skins would be ruined. New wine requires new wineskins.

Wineskins were goatskins sewn around the edges to create a watertight vessel. As new wine ferments, it emits gasses that cause the wineskin to expand. An old rigid wineskin cannot withstand this process and it will burst. Can we stand the process?

Jesus' new teaching was so different from their old ways of thinking that it required a changed heart and a transformed mind. The new wine of the Holy Ghost could not be contained in their ways of thinking and living.

As you anticipate what God has for you in 2022, prepare your heart. Is there anything rigid in me that would prevent the work God will do? Ask yourself, where am I resistant to His touch, His word, His will, and His way? Am I pliable to His direction? Whatever you identify confess and repent before God.

Open yourself to His possibilities. Listen for the fresh truths he will whisper. Expand your boundaries for the opportunities he will bring. Get Ready! God has great aspirations for you in 2022.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin, Chaplain SAVC



The primary purpose of Veterans Recovery Resources is to provide therapy and treatment options for Veterans in crisis.

They may be home, but their battle rages on. With their memory. With their traumas. With themselves. One veteran in four suffers from serious mental health issues, often turning to drugs, alcohol, and even suicide to end their pain. Yet now there's a place they can turn before it's too late: Veterans Recovery Resources, a new community-based mental wellness program that's designed for the specific needs of veterans—regardless of their ability to pay. With the help of empathic, specially-trained professionals, veterans can quickly begin the road back to healthier and more meaningful lives.



Dr. Jeremy Fletcher:

Veterans Recovery Resources, a local Veteran owned non-profit, won a big victory in Montgomery Tuesday, December 14th. . The Statewide Health Coordinating Council approved its request that will now help it open a detox facility in Mobile County. VRR plans to open a 34-bed inpatient detox center in Mobile County but needed the SHCC to grant an adjustment first. Bradford Health Services, which runs a detox facility in Birmingham, initially opposed the plan. It formally dropped that opposition prior to the hearing, but a representative from Bradford who sits on the SHCC was one of two members who voted against VRR's request. While this is an important step in opening, VRR still has to obtain a certificate of need from the state in order to open. VRR Executive Director, COL John Kilpatrick, would like to express his heartfelt gratitude for the more than 50 Veterans, First Responders, and Family members who made the trip to Montgomery to support VRR's mission. For more information about joining forces with VRR, please contact Dr. Jeremy Fletcher, Director of Community Integration at jcf@vetsrecover.org -Jeremy



VRR – Montgomery Dec 14, 2021



Reminder –

Community Advisory Council Members and Friends:

The Peer Ambassador Training is scheduled for January 8, 2022 from 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. at the Innovation Portal.

Address: 358 St Louis St, Mobile, AL 36602

Please sign up by completing [this form](#). If you have questions feel free to reach out to Jeremy.

To learn more about the training, please visit our Facebook [Peer Ambassador Training Event](#) page. Additional information can be found in the details section.

One Love. One Spirit. One Purpose

Dr. Jeremy Fletcher, Director of Community Integration, Project Director, CCBHC
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Secure Fax: 251.405.3323 - www.vetsrecover.org



A rendering of the Veterans Recovery Resources campus provided by Cummings Architecture.



Jim Jeffries

**Support the American Legion
Legacy Scholarship Fund**

The American Legion wants to ensure higher education is a possibility for children whose parents lost their lives while serving our country. Beginning with the 2017 award year, The American Legion expanded the scholarship to include children of VA-rated, post-9/11 veterans with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The American Legion and the Legion Riders offer support through the Legacy Scholarship Fund. This year, 2021, The American Legion Riders donated One Million Dollars to the Legacy Fund. The fund now stands at one point six million dollars.

Apply January 1 to April 15.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized.

WHO

Children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Children of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

WHAT

Each needs-based scholarship provides up to \$20,000 in aid for undergraduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times.

WHEN

All applications new or renewal must be submitted using the online scholarship submission system beginning January 1 and NO LATER THAN April 15 annually.

Winners are announced each May. Scholarship awards must be used within one year.

The American Legion Riders Legacy Run

About the Riders

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veteran's homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Eligibility requirements:

Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.

Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.

All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.

All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.



American Legion Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps.

American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State.

For more information:

Please review [eligibility and dates](#) to find a program and contact information in your state.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Joe Birindelli Chapter 864

VVA 864 Ron Moore – Membership Chairman:



“If anyone knows of a Vietnam Veteran or one who served during that era, please let them know about our chapter. We are now the ONLY VVA Chapter in the southern part of our great state, Alabama. VVA Members only need to submit an application for membership (**go on line to vva.org**) look up the forms, download, print out and **remove the Social Security # on the needed DD214 and send it to our address ONLY:**

VVA Joe Birindelli Chapter 864
P.O. Box 2535
Robertsdale, AL 36567

No funds will be needed to accompany the application, only the DD214, and the Application for VVA Membership. Our chapter elected several years ago to pay for the Life Membership Fee. As my deceased Friend, Bill Atkeison told me years ago:”

“Whether you attend a meeting or not, whether you are able to participate in an event or not, what really counts is the numbers to a POLITICIAN, - and believe me we need the numbers.” - Bill Atkeison

The Alabama Vietnam Veterans Memorial In Mobile, Alabama

The Alabama Vietnam Veterans Memorial came about as a vision of several members of Local VVA Chapter No. 701 here in Mobile which includes members from Mobile and Baldwin Counties. They wanted to build a memorial to honor the 175 men from these two counties.

Date of Installation:

November 7, 1999

Organization Responsible for Installation:

Members of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 701, Mobile AL

Memorial War Era(s):

Vietnam

Location:

Battleship Memorial Park 2701 Battleship Parkway Mobile AL 36601



The Memorial was designed and built by Vietnam veterans. They also raised all the money, and the memorial is valued at over \$100,000. The Battleship Commission supplied the land.



In 2019 the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission choose the Veteran of the Vietnam War Era as the Patriot of the Year in the Mobile Bay Area. (Mobile, Baldwin Counties).

Today, they continue to honor these Veterans by presenting them with the Vietnam Veterans Medallion. Welcome Home!! You may apply by using the on-line application found at:

VeteransDay-MobileBay.com

Or contact Fran @ 251-605-1290

**PATRIOTS OF THE YEAR
Veterans of the Vietnam War Era**



Today we pause to honor the men and women who answered our nation's call to arms and made sacrifices both large and lasting. Using the dates of the National Defense Service Medal, the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission decided that it was appropriate to recognize the service of all who served

“I would like thank Jim and Susan Ward for their dedication to the Vietnam War Era Veterans. Since July 2021, Jim and Susan have presented medallions to several Vietnam Era Veterans in the Mobile and Baldwin County areas. They are members of the Dauphin Island Veterans Association, Dauphin Island, AL (DIVA).” -Fran Barber, Mobile Bay Veterans Day Commission.

**(SHARED FROM FACEBOOK: December 18, 2021)
FAMILY WREATH DAY @ Arlington South**



Margaret Coley:

“They came...the weather gave them a window of opportunity...to honor the veterans who are interred at the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Arlington South). Special thanks to the Boy Scouts...Girl Scouts...Cub Scouts...all the young at heart...the cemetery looks beautiful...Grateful to Pastor Jeff Spiller our speaker...sharing his heart...It was a wonderful day.”

Unfortunately, because of a little time, weathering, and use made the wreaths unusable...no worries, the GFWC Jubilee Woman’s Club came to the rescue.



**Carol Cleveland, President
GFWC Jubilee Woman’s Club:**

“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 Baldwin County Honor Guard, Pastor Jeff Spiller, guest speaker. Margaret Coley, Director of 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 to be a part of this special day!”

The GFWC Jubilee Woman’s Club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) which is one of the world’s largest women’s volunteer organizations dedicated to improving communities through service.

GFWC Jubilee Woman’s Club, comprised of engaged volunteers who reside in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, is committed to personal growth and supporting various needs found in our local and global communities. Hamburgers for Heroes at W.F. Green is just one of their many projects to honor Veterans.



Patricia Downing

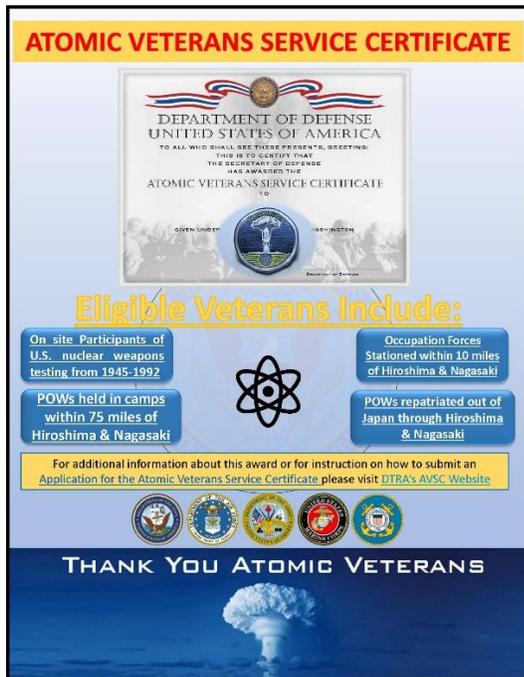




ADVA - Authorized in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, the Atomic Veterans Service Certificate (AVSC) IS INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE Veterans who were or could have been exposed to radiation during their occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki or while participating in a nuclear weapons test during their service to the nation. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) was selected to manage the AVSC program due to its existing expertise of determining radiation exposure through the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTRP) Program, and has already started issuing certificates.

Learn More:

<https://www.dtra.mil/.../Atomic-Vets-Service-Certificate/>



Suicide knows no boundaries.

It can affect any age group, gender, or race. It has nothing to do with income or education. Suicide can become a tragedy for anyone.

Veterans sign up to protect our country, but there is often a price to service that Veterans did not sign up for — trauma that follows.

Alabama is proud of its military, with more than 9% having served our country. However, the state also faces the tragic reality of having one of the nation's highest Veteran suicide rates. In 2020, 152 Veterans in Alabama took their own lives, which represented 18% of the state's suicides.

It's time we address this issue head on.

Alabama's Challenge for Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) is an initiative aimed to create an impactful, long-term outcome across the state as we continue fighting a stigma with mental illness.

Learn more about how Alabama is fighting Veteran suicide here: <https://bit.ly/3IVxtgi>

Mission K-9 Rescue – K9 War Dog Ride, Poker Chip Run – Saturday, March 26, 2022

Andrew Earl:

THE CAUSE... "My mission is to Rescue and bring home Military K9 Veterans that have been abandoned overseas by our government/vendors, all to save money. I am the Founder/Coordinator of the Event and Punishers Alabama Coastal Chapter has been gracious enough to Host this year. My past events have allowed us to aid in "Bringing them Home" All monies go to this mission. K9 Max (Ambassador) and I have spoken to many in an attempt to educate the general public the truth about the plight of these amazing Veteran Heroes."

[Home - Mission K9 Rescue](#)



January - Important Military Dates

1/16 Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) Began (1991)

1/27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)

1/31 Panama Campaign Ended (1990)



Mobile County Public School System Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery Community Service Project.

Mobile County JROTC Cadets will participate in a District-Wide service Learning Project to help restore Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery, a Non-perpetual Care Cemetery in the Toulminville Community, on Friday, January 14, 2022. There are an estimated 2000 Veterans gravesites, to date over 960 Veterans gravesites have been located.

The cemetery was originally founded to serve the needs of the African-American community in Mobile, but has fallen into a state of neglect over the past 40 years.

A non-profit group, "Veterans Memorial Recovery Team" Is dedicated to preserving the memory of these men and women who served our nation.

Robert F. Barrow, LTC, US Army (Ret),
Director of Army Instruction, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program

VETERANS MEMORIAL RECOVERY TEAM



VMRT, with donations from Flags of Glory and Vietnam Veterans of America Alabama Chapter 701/864, Hammco Tree Service was hired to remove more dead and dying trees from Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery. R.I.P. Bill, we got your back!

HAMMCO TREE SERVICE – 251-680-466



MOBILE MEMORIAL
GARDENS CEMETERY
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES[®]



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

A Veterans supporting Organization