

April 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

Capt Hal Pierce, Bill Atkinson, Spiritus Ameritus SAVC

NEXT SAVC MEETING - Tuesday- April 19, 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:



"Spring has Sprung" and we are in need of a change to propel us toward the summer. We are gearing up to enter a busy Veteran season.

We kicked it off with a great Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at the Vietnam Memorial at the Battleship.

We are busy planning a great Armed Forces Day & Blue Star Salute on 21 May. It will be bigger and better than ever.

We are also planning for the POW/MIA Day Ceremony in September, then rolling into Veterans Day in November. Just remember, "Every Day is Veterans Day."

Even in this busy time, we have to stop and thank God for all He has given us. As we enter the Easter season and Passover, we have to take time out with our family and pray for our Veterans and our Military, as they stand guard at the Gates of Freedom.

From the SAVC staff, we wish all a prayerful Passover and Easter.

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

Chaplains Corner:

Good Morning!

It's rejoice and be glad Tuesday;
Read Psalm 118:24

The Bible declares that "This is the day the LORD hath made; we shall rejoice and be glad in it."

Are we rejoicing today? Are we glad today? These are thought provoking questions, because God's mercies are renewed every day, we are not consumed. Thank you Lord!

Our Heavenly Father made this day for us. He has already provided us with everything that we need to succeed today. Isn't that wonderful. So we should be motivated because God loves us so much that He gave His Son for us and He didn't give up on us. It doesn't matter what the day holds, as long as we keep our focus on the One who made this day. We will always be Okay 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.

What is a QR Code and how does it Work?



It is a **machine-scannable image that can instantly be read using a Smartphone camera.**

Every QR code consists of a number of black squares and dots which represent certain pieces of information. When your Smartphone scans this code, it translates that information into something that can be easily understood by humans.

The quick response, or QR, Code is a two-dimensional version of the Barcode able to convey a wide variety of information almost instantly with the scan of a mobile device.

Able to store up to 7089 digits or 4296 characters, including punctuation marks and special characters, the Code can equally encode words and phrases such as internet addresses. One thing to always keep in mind, especially when it comes to designing the Static QR Codes aesthetic is that the more data is added, the more the size increases and its structure becomes more complex.

Even when damaged, the QR Code's structure data keys include duplications. It is thanks to these redundancies that allow up to 30% of the Code structure to take damage without affecting its readability on scanners.

This is a link to a free QR code generator which I used to create the SAVC QR code which takes you to the SAVC website. Try it!

[QR Code Generator | Create Your Free QR Codes \(qr-code-generator.com\)](http://qr-code-generator.com)

[Scan a QR code with your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch - Apple Support](#)

[How to Scan QR Codes with Android | QR Code Generator \(qr-code-generator.com\)](http://qr-code-generator.com)

Alabama's 17th Annual Armed Forces Day Blue Star Salute
5K Memorial Run/Walk & 1 Mile Fun Run
FOR ALABAMA'S FALLEN HEROES
USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park
Vendors on display from 7 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Armed Forces Day
Mobile



ALABAMA VETERANS RESOURCE Veteran Owned Business List

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/>

Significant Dates for the Military

Month of the Military Child

April 5- Gold Star Wives Day-A day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or as a result of service-connected injuries or illness.

April 6 - Army Day/US Entered WWI (1917)

April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day

April 11 - Desert Storm Cease-fire (Persian Gulf War) (1991)

April 12 - Civil War Began (1861)

April 14 - Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 17 - Easter Sunday

April 23 - Army Reserve Birthday

April 25 - ANZAC Day (Australia and New Zealand)

April 25 - Spanish-American War Began (1898)



[Plans for the World's Tallest Flagpole and Most Comprehensive Veterans Memorial to be Unveiled in Maine | U.S. Veterans Magazine \(usveteransmagazine.com\)](#)

This Park will become the **only place in the country to honor all 24 million American veterans in one location.**

Standing taller than the Empire State Building, the Park will **fly the world's largest American flag from the tallest flagpole in the world**, symbolizing the commitment and sacrifice veterans make to protect America's freedom.

Va Recommendations To The Asset And Infrastructure Review Commission, March 2022

Recommendations keep Mobile and Baldwin Counties in the Biloxi area VISN 16, with AL, AR, FL, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX.

<https://www.va.gov/AIRCOMMISSIONREPORT/docs/VISN16-Market-Recommendation.pdf>

Volume II: Market Recommendations - VA Recommendations to the AIR Commission



[ALABAMA'S CHALLENGE FOR PREVENTING SUICIDE AMONG SMVF – Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

Suicide Prevention Resources

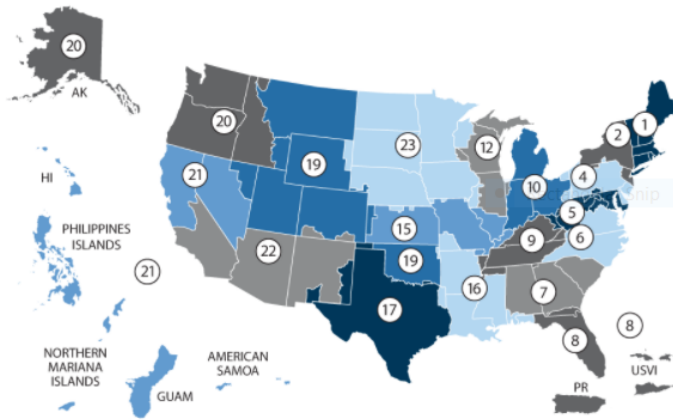
CLAIMS REPRESENTATION AND COUNSELING Veterans Service Offices

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) has veterans service offices located in 60 counties throughout the State of Alabama. The primary function of the ADVA service offices is to assist veterans, their dependents, and survivors in the application and processing of claims for benefits and entitlements available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the benefits provided for veterans by law from the State of Alabama earned by honorable service in the armed forces of the United States.

Services include the processing of compensation and pension applications; appeal VA decisions; file for survivors death benefits; apply for aid and attendance and housebound benefits; certification of claim documents; request for military service records; upgrade military discharges; apply for special veteran license plates.

ADVA veterans service officers are accredited to perform claims actions by nationally chartered veterans service organizations to include the American Legion, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Fleet Reserve Association, and Blinded Veterans Association.

Links: To find your nearest Veterans Service Office visit the [Veterans Service Office Locator Page](#) for contact options.



VISN 1	VISN 12
Market Recommendation (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)	Market Recommendation (IL, IN, MI, MN, WI)
VISN 2	VISN 15
Market Recommendation (NJ, NY, PA)	Market Recommendation (AR, IL, IN, KS, KY, MO)
VISN 4	VISN 16
Market Recommendation (DE, NJ, NY, OH, PA, WV)	Market Recommendation (AL, AR, FL, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX)
VISN 5	VISN 17
Market Recommendation (DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV)	Market Recommendation (NM, OK, TX)
VISN 6	VISN 19
Market Recommendation (NC, VA)	Market Recommendation (CO, ID, KS, MT, NE, NV, OK, TX, UT, WY)
VISN 7	VISN 20
Market Recommendation (AL, GA, SC)	Market Recommendation (AK, CA, ID, MT, OR, WA)
VISN 8	VISN 21
Market Recommendation (FL, GA, PR, VI)	Market Recommendation (CA, HI, NV, AS, GU, MP)
VISN 9	VISN 22
Market Recommendation (AR, GA, KY, IN, MS, TN, VA)	Market Recommendation (AZ, CA, CO, NM)
VISN 10	VISN 23
Market Recommendation (IN, KY, MI, OH)	Market Recommendation (IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI, WY)

Veterans can seamlessly transition into the United States Merchant Marine.



REQUIREMENTS TWIC, PASSPORT, MMC, SIU PHYSICAL

DECK

Contact the Coast Guard for an evaluation of paperwork and an approval letter to sit for AB or FOWT. USCG will need DD-214, Page 5 History of Assignments (HOA), Transcript of Sea Service (TOSS - if applicable) and Page 4.

2 years sea time in the last 7 years in a Deck approved rating

- Deck Approved ratings:
 - Bosn Mate
 - Operation Specialist
 - Seaman
 - Gunners Mate
 - Quartermaster
 - Damage Controlman
 - Any Officer of the Navigational Watch

ENGINE

2 years sea time in the last 7 years in an Engine approved rating

- Engine Approved ratings:
 - Machinists Mate
 - Boilerman
 - Electrician Mate
 - Engineman
 - Hull Technician
 - Machinery Repairman
 - Any Officer of the Engineering Watch

REQUIREMENTS TWIC, PASSPORT, MMC, SIU PHYSICAL

STEWARD

USCG will need DD-214, MMC endorsed as: Ordinary Seaman, Viper or Stewards Department (FH) USCG Medical Certificate (w/o limitations/restrictions on Food Handling)

Culinary Specialist

- Two years (24 months) of completed employment as a Line Cook or higher position. Successful completion of an Advanced Culinary course.
- Previous U.S. military experience in Culinary (Pay grade E-6 or above with at least one Culinary tour of not less than 24 months in a Lead Foodservice Production Capacity. The U.S. military service must have been within five years. The candidate may exceed this five-year requirement if continuously employed in a food service capacity.
- Current US. Armed Forces Food Safety/Sanitation Supervisor Course
- Annual 4-hour Sanitation course.
- on official letter head, form, or evaluation from current or previous employer that describes experience related to these duties. Document must include company name, applicant's name, and name with signature of company/agency official.

CCAP PROGRAM



Medical

- Registered Nurse
- Independent Duty Corpsman



Storekeeper

- Ship Clip
- Computer Software Training



Automated Logistical Specialist

- Stock control and Accounting procedures
- Procedures for shipping, receiving, maintenance, and storage
- Procedures for handling medical and food supplies



Airforce Specialty Control

- Logistic and maintenance training

OTHER

Military to Maritime - Connecting America's Veterans to Maritime Careers

Work Opportunity Tax Credit – WOTC

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers who invest in American job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment. Employers may meet their business needs and claim a tax credit if they hire an individual who is in a WOTC targeted group.

Employers must apply for and receive a certification verifying the new hire is a member of a targeted group before they can claim the tax credit. After the required certification is secured, taxable employers claim the WOTC as a general business credit against their income taxes, and tax-exempt employers claim the WOTC against their payroll taxes. WOTC is authorized until December 31, 2025 (Section 113 of Division EE of P.L. 116-260 – consolidated appropriations Act, 2021).

For further information, visit the [IRS WOTC Website](#) or the [U.S. Department of Labor WOTC Website](#).

[Work Opportunity Tax Credit - WOTC \(alabama.gov\)](#)

EMPLOYERS: WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT



WOTC is a federal tax credit available for employers who hire individuals from eligible target groups with significant barriers to employment.

WOTC TARGETED GROUPS:

1. Qualified IV-A recipients (TANF)
2. Qualified veterans
3. Qualified ex-felons
4. Designated community residents
5. Vocation rehabilitation referrals
6. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients
7. Supplemental Security Income recipients
8. Long-term family assistance recipients (TANF)
9. Qualified long-term unemployment recipients

CONTACT

ALABAMA WOTC UNIT

334-309-9079 / wotc.alcc@alcc.alabama.gov



The Alabama Career Center System is administered through the Employment Services Division of the Alabama Department of Labor.

NEWS FROM BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK:



Now Hear This!

Battleship Memorial Park is pleased to announce the selection of the 2022-2023 USS ALABAMA Crewmates. These young women will represent BMP throughout the year at community and state-wide events. They will serve as our official hostesses throughout the year.

Please help us welcome from left to right:

Larkyn Tyler, age 21, of Mobile. Larkyn attends the University of South Alabama where she is a junior majoring in Exercise Science. She is the daughter of Allison Tyler.

Bailey Scopolites, age 19, of Mobile. Bailey attends the University of South Alabama where she is a freshman majoring in Business. She is the daughter of Emily Scopolites-Jasper and Cedrick Jasper.

Allison (Allie) Boudreaux, age 20, of Theodore. Allison attends the University of South Alabama where she is a sophomore majoring in Nursing. She is the daughter of Wendy and Michael Boudreaux.

Crimson Harrison, age 19, of Montevallo. Crimson attends the University of South Alabama where she is a freshman majoring in Exercise Science. She is the daughter of Amanda and Noel Harrison.

Jorjalyn Weaver, age 20, of Mount Vernon. Jorjalyn attends Spring Hill College where she is a junior majoring in Marketing and Management. She is the daughter of Debbie and Perry Weaver.

Emily Silbernagel, age 19, of Mobile. Emily attends the University of Mobile where she is a freshman majoring in Healthcare Management. She is the daughter of Christie and Barry Silbernagel. Congratulations ladies!



Traveling to our beautiful Alabama beaches for spring break? Make plans to stop by Battleship Memorial Park while you are down here. Stop at any of our Alabama Welcome Centers, the Gulf Shore Welcome Center, or the Orange Beach Welcome Center and pick up a rack card to the park. There is a \$2 Off coupon printed on it that can be used for up to six adults (ages 12 and up).

Now Hear This!

Battleship Memorial Park is developing a permanent exhibit to honor and celebrate the USS ALABAMA Crewmate Program. The Crewmate Program was established in 1967 as an ambassadorship program for the park. Since its beginning, over 350 young women have served as USS ALABAMA Crewmates.

Pictured is Laurie Spotswood Hartley, 1976 Miss USS ALABAMA. Laurie has graciously donated photos and memorabilia for the exhibit. If you are a former Crewmate and are interested in making a donation, please contact Lynne Price at 251-432-2834 or lprice@ussalabama.com. Thank you.



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

March 29, 2022

The Vietnam Wall at the USS Battleship Memorial Park:

- Lower Alabama Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall constructed 1998 and Dedicated 9 Nov 1999.
- Construction guided by Vietnam Veterans of America 701 and 864 with help of many others.
- One Wall has the names of 1213 Alabama Fallen and other 178 from Mobile Baldwin Counties.
- Cost for the Memorial Walls was \$175,000. Money from donation and sale of Bricks, T-shirts, etc.
- Statue holding the dog-tags looking at those who gave all—it is called “REMEMBERING.”
- Sculptor was Mr. Richard “Dick” Arnold. He pasted over 10 years ago.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Battleship Memorial Park, Mobile, AL



CMD Pete Riehm USN (Ret), with Cecilia Knox, senior at Mary G Montgomery High School. Cecilia sang the National Anthem at the Memorial Ceremony



Marine Corp League, P.L. Wilson Detachment
Mike Nichols, Jack Presnall, Tom Claxton, Betty Beatty, Larry Savell, Nick Matranga, Roy Lafon, Jim Smith, Randy Hines



Veterans who are dedicated to serving their communities...Lou Lartigue, Tom Claxton, Pete Riehm, Patrick Downing, and a Vietnam Veteran



Barry L Booth
Honoring his hooch mate,
LT JG, Robert Moinester
KIA JAN 31 1968
Hue City...I Corps TET OFFENSIVE

- The Ceremony
- *Opening and Welcoming-SAVC
Pete Riehm
 - *Raising National Colors, Playing National Anthem Followed by Service Medley
 - *Marine Corps League PL Wilson Chapter Tom Claxton
 - *Invocation- Lou Lartigue – President SAVC
 - *Pledge of Allegiance-VVA 701
Past President Tom Schwarz
 - *Introduction of Guest Speaker
Mr. Val Obregon-VVA 864 - Pete
 - *Lowering and Raising Flag to Half Staff - Tom Claxton & Marine Corps League
 - *Presentation of Wreath & Taps to recognize our Fallen.

Needham Bryan Chapter

Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Veterans Benefit Fundraiser



For every \$1.00 donation to the 2020 - 2021 Needham Bryan Chapter's Veterans Benefit Fundraiser you will receive a VOICE that includes an opportunity to take home this handmade American Flag Themed Quilt. All proceeds will go directly to benefit veterans in Alabama.

VOICES are limited and the drawing will be held once all VOICES gone.

For Additional Tickets & Information

Please Contact

Sandra Rackard at sandrackard@gmail.com
or
Michele Yarbrough at michele.yarbrough13@gmail.com

Please Make All Checks Payable to: Needham Bryan Chapter

As the time draws near, we will post an update on the Needham Bryan Chapter Facebook Page for the drawing.
Needham Bryan Chapter DAR Mobile, AL (Facebook Page)



For every \$1.00 donation to the 2020-2021 Needham Bryan Chapter's Veterans Benefit Fundraiser you will receive a VOICE that includes an opportunity to take home a handmade American Flag Quilt. All proceeds will go directly to benefit veterans in Alabama. VOICES are limited and the drawing will be held once all VOICES gone.

Contact Sandra Rackard:

srackard@bellsouth.net

Michele Yarbrough:

Michele.yarbrough@gmail.com

Fran Barber

photographybyfran@gmail.com

Sandra Rackard, Regent, Needham Bryan Chapter of the DAR, NSDAR and Michele Yarbrough displaying the Old Glory quilt. Michele made the quilt for their Veterans Benefit Fundraiser for 2020-2021.

The proceeds will go to Veterans Recovery Resources, an organization built for Veterans, by Veterans. VRR organization is committed to helping those who served us by addressing substance abuse and PTSD among veterans and first responders, and provide help to their families.

The DAR presented a Certificate of Appreciation for her Excellence in Community Service, and the chapter presented a donation to Veterans Memorial Recovery Team, working to restore dignity to Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery.

NOTICE:

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA)
The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is transitioning the entire State to a new driver license system. You may have seen the Governor's news release on this.

The DL system will be down starting 18 April to 25 April 2022.

The primary functions of the License Commission will remain operational during these dates.

Thanks,
Nick Matranga

[Governor Ivey Announces New Statewide Driver License System - Office of the Governor of Alabama](#)



Notice

The statewide Alabama driver license system will be transitioning to a new system called: **Law Enforcement Agency Driver System (LEADS)**, beginning **26 April 2022**.

The entire system will be offline beginning **18 April to 25 April 2022** for installation.

This **will not impact** vehicle registrations, renewals, or business license functions of the Mobile County License Commission. www.mobilecountylc.com

Please contact our office at 251 574-8551 for any changes to these dates.

Nick Matranga

Mobile County License Commissioner



I am officially one of
the top trainers in
Alabama!

Frances Dauster

**THANK YOU
FOR THE SUPPORT!**

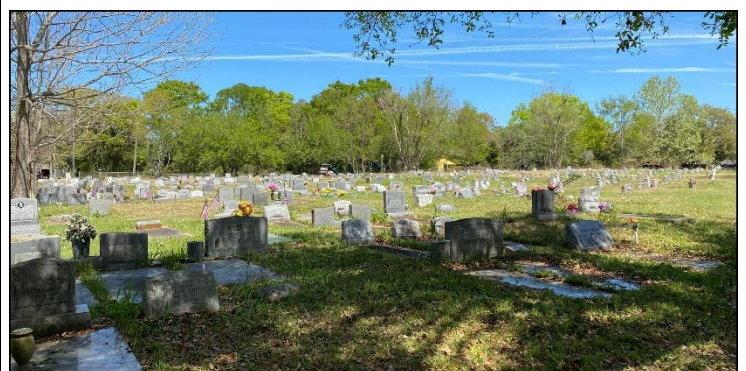
SPONSORED BY

 **Sniffspot**
Rent safe private dog parks

Sunpaws owner Frances Dauster, Kristen Bulhack Kraljevic and Jessica Stinson Hudson were voted top dog trainers in Alabama, Way to go Frances!!

UNITI FIBER – providing the critical communications infrastructure needed to seamlessly connect the world.

Uniti's volunteer group, "Proud 2 Serve", had a day of caring at Historic Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery. Thank you Cathy, Yantzee, and all the Uniti employees who gave a few hours of their time to help restore dignity to the Veterans memorialized in Historic Oaklawn.



VMRT Website: [Non-profit Organization | Veterans Memorial Recovery Team \(vmrt.org\)](https://www.vmrteam.org/)

National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.
Chapter #33 –
5th Annual Scholarship Program 26 April 2022

National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

Annual Scholarship Program

26 April 2022



Join members of the
Mobile Chapter #33

At the 5th Annual Scholarship Program
as they honor local high school seniors receiving
scholarships in the name of the men of Montford Point



Ben May Library (Theater)
701 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36604
6pm – 7:30pm

Guest Speaker:
LTC Robert Barrow, US Army
Director, JROTC Program
w/ Murphy HS Color Guard

Suicide is a National Public Health Concern

 **Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**

 **Chat online**

 **Text 838255**

MOBILE MEMORIAL
GARDENS CEMETERY
MEMORIALIZING MEMORIES[®]



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



Veterans Recovery Resources

Committed To Veterans Like You 251-405-3677



Benefiting
**HELPING
H2O
OVERCOME**
A Program Of

7 May 2022 - Daulphin Island Marina

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

<https://vetsrecover.org/reelin-it-in-for-vets-fishing.../>



Saucy Q Bar B Que

1111 Government Blvd–Mobile AL

SAVE THE DATE - SAVC – April 19 meeting
Our meeting starts at 0830a.m., but we like to gather
earlier for breakfast or coffee and just talk about
Veterans Stuff and what is going on. – Lou