



South Alabama Veterans Council

*A Coalition of Veterans, Friends, and Organizations working
Together to Further the Cause of Veterans in the South Alabama Area*



Robert "Frank" Barrow
President
251-423-0437

Pat Downing
Vice President
251-751-6619

Robert Shawn Davidson
Deputy VP Operations
985-264-3471

Fran Barber
Secretary / Newsletter
251-605-1290

Tom Schwarz
Treasurer
251-649-8459

Lloyd Michael Austin
Chaplain
251-391-8176

Pete Riehm
Liaison Officer / MC
251-442-4349



The South Alabama Veterans Council was established in 1998 by Col Glenn Frazier and other Veterans in the Mobile Area. The first meeting was held in the Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88. Welcome Back.

Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88



Hello Friends and Fellow Veterans!

Fall weather has finally arrived, and we can now begin cooler mornings as we enter the Holiday Season. For many, this is a welcome break from the sweltering heat of summer, and all of us enjoy our beautiful Fall days here in South Alabama!

Our guest speaker this month is Lieutenant Will Stufflebeam, United States Coast Guard, who is currently assigned to the Aviation Training Center here in Mobile. He plans to give us an update on what's new with Coast Guard Aviation and its impact on our community. Of course, we hope that the current threat of a government shutdown doesn't hamper our plans to have him visit with us this month. By the time you read this, we will know if our elected officials have been able to fulfill the job they are expected to do on our behalf. The last time this happened it adversely affected many of our veterans as well as members of the Armed Forces!

We had an outstanding presentation last month from Colonel (Ret) William Mark Valentine! His experience on 9/11 while serving as an F-16 fighter jet pilot in Washington, D.C. kept us in awe! I also want to thank our board members, as well as the planning committee for Armed Forces Day next spring. We are getting started early to ensure we have another great ceremony! In addition, please make plans to participate in the Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon next month...I will be pulling a trailer to represent SAVC in the parade...if you want to ride, please let me know! See you soon!

Robert "Frank" Barrow
LTC (US Army Retired)
President, South Alabama Veterans Council



GREETINGS!

*It's A praise break
Read Psalm 150:6*

*"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord,
praise the Lord."*

So, let's take a break and praise the Lord. Heavenly Father, we just want to say thank you, we praise you, we worship you, and I honor you in the mighty name of Jesus. You are precious, holy, and divine. You are wonderful, magnificent, and you are so good; there is none like you.

So Heavenly Father, we praise you for your grace and your mercy, your love and your kindness. We thank you for making a way out of no way. We honor you for providing for all of our needs. We worship you, and we love you with all our heart, mind, soul, body, and strength.

Heavenly Father, encamp your angels around us, our families, friends, and loved ones. Heal, deliver, and keep us safe from hurt and harm.

In Jesus' name, amen!

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain SAVC*



The next SAVC meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88
2663 Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL 36606

8:00 a.m. Pay-as-you-go Breakfast

Meeting starts promptly at 8:30 a.m.

###



Aviation Training Center

Commanding Officer: Captain Scott E. Lugo

The Coast Guard Aviation Training Center (ATC) in Mobile, Alabama is a multi-mission unit, acting as the Coast Guard's aviation and capabilities development center, as well as an operational air station. Training is conducted to qualify Coast Guard pilots in the MH-60 "Jayhawk". The Coast Guard Aviation Training Center (ATC) in Mobile, Alabama, is a multi-mission unit that serves as the Coast Guard's hub for aviation and capabilities development, as well as an operational air station. Training is provided to qualify Coast Guard pilots in the MH-60 "Jayhawk," the MH-65 "Dolphin," the HC-130 Hercules, the HC-130J Hercules, and the HC-144 "Ocean Sentry." All pilots initially trained at ATC return annually for a one-week proficiency course in their designated airframe. Operating within the Coast Guard's Force Readiness Command's Training Division (FC-T), the ATC Mobile evaluation center is tasked with ensuring that Coast Guard aviation forces utilize the best equipment and tactics to complete all missions successfully. The Operations Department, which operates the HC-144A Ocean Sentry, is a segment within the ATC command that conducts traditional Coast Guard air station missions, including Search and Rescue, Homeland Security, and Environmental Protection. The Operations Department functions under the tactical control of the Eighth Coast Guard District and covers an area extending from the Louisiana/Texas border to the eastern edge of the Florida panhandle. H-65 "Dolphin", the HC-130 Hercules, the HC-130J Hercules, and the HC-144 "Ocean Sentry." All pilots initially trained at ATC return once a year for a one week proficiency course in their designated airframe. Serving within the Coast Guard's Force Readiness Command's Training Division (FC-T), the

ATC Mobile Evaluation Center is responsible for ensuring that Coast Guard aviation forces utilize the best equipment and tactics to complete all required missions successfully. The Operations Department, flying the HC-144A Ocean Sentry, is a segment within the ATC command that conducts traditional Coast Guard air station missions, including Search and Rescue, Homeland Security, and Environmental Protection. The Operations Department operates under the tactical control of the Eighth Coast Guard District and has area of responsibility that extends from the Louisiana/Texas border to the eastern edge of the Florida panhandle.

###



Veterans Day Honors Luncheon tickets are now available., If you want to purchase a ticket at the SAVC table, cash or check (\$30), please contact

Tom Schwarz: Phone: 251-649-8459

Email: tschwarz6217@gmail.com

###



HONORS LUNCHEON

To order individual tickets or a table for your organization at the Honors Luncheon after the Veterans Day Parade:

vetscommission.com/honors-luncheon-link

To participate in the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Mobile, AL, complete the application and return it, details are on the website:

vetscommission.com/2025-parade-registration





South Alabama Veterans Council VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

Captain Hal Pierce - Sealord of Mobile



Captain Hal dedicated his life to military, community, and veterans' causes. His dedication benefited groups such as the Mobile Propeller Club, Navy League, Symphonic Pops Band, Lighthouse Association, South Alabama Veterans Council, and the American Legion Veterans Commission.

His efforts to restore the Middle Bay Lighthouse lasted over 30 years. He arranged visits for more than 100 Navy ships at Mobile Port, allowing residents to tour. He served on the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, having been appointed in 2002, a proud achievement. His greatest commitment was to South Alabama Veterans, who benefited from his dedication.

Honors to the Captain included Maritime Man of the Year, Alabama's Distinguished Service Medal, Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year, and the Mobile Chamber of Commerce Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award.

Jennifer Caldwell Byrd Veterans Disability Attorney Gardberg & Kemmerly



Jennifer has a servant's heart and the tenacity of a lion. In April 2019, Jennifer joined the Veterans' Disability section of Gardberg and Kemmerly. She is accredited by the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and is a member of the National Organization of Veterans Advocates.



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2021, the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission renamed the President's Award the Captain Hal Pierce Memorial Award to honor veteran supporters. Recipients do not need to have military ties but should demonstrate volunteerism, vision, or support for veterans, recognizing either lifetime service or a single notable act of support.

Award recipients should embody the same spirit of service, patriotism, community, and love of country that Captain Hal demonstrated throughout his life.



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret)

On October 1, Steve Carey announced the recipients of the Captain Hal Pierce Memorial Award

Jennifer Caldwell Byrd, & Ms. Nancy Raia

Ms. Nancy Raia Artist in Residence United States Sports University

Ms. Nancy Raia has consistently distinguished herself by exceptional support of our local veteran's community. She has been one of the most energetic champions of our veterans, enthusiastically supporting several organizations and projects.

Chief among these have been fifteen years of service teaching art to hundreds of veterans at the William F. Green Veterans Home in Bay Minette.



Department of New York's Bill Clancy III elected to Sons of The American Legion's top office. A member of the Detachment of New York has been elected as the 2025-2026 Sons of the American Legion national commander. William "Bill" Clancy III was elected by delegates to the organization's national convention in Tampa, Fla.



[New SAL national commander stresses teamwork as he looks to upcoming year | The American Legion](#)

###



Bennet and Frank Barrow



*David Blair Director
Office of Military Services*

SAVC was happy to assist a veteran's daughter as she starts her nursing studies at the University of South Alabama. SAVC donated to the university's Veterans Support Special Fund to help with unexpected expenses.

###



John Joe Dec's special presentation to CDR Pete Riehm and ADML Kent Davis, USCg, honoring their rescue of the Navy since 1790.

Thank you, James Burks, USN Veteran, for your generous donation of a handmade plaque for the SAVC lectern.



James Burks, U.S. Navy veteran and A220 Quality Inspector at Airbus, is leading an effort alongside fellow veteran and civilian volunteers to restore a historic Douglas C-47 Skytrain aircraft on display at Mobile's **USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park**.

###

The Veterans Helping Veterans Jeep & Car Show, Hosted by P L Wilson, presented a donation to SAVC. Col Pat Downing, USA (Ret), VP SAVC, received the donation.



Quilts Of Valor Baldwin County
Local Veterans received QOV quilts at the car show



FIELD OF VALOR - The Exchange Club of Mobile will sponsor the "Field of Valor" on Sunday, October 26th, at The Battleship Memorial Park at 2 pm in the Aircraft Honors Pavilion.

FIELD OF VALOR



**Battleship Memorial Park
Aircraft Pavilion
Oct 26, 2025
Dedication Ceremony**

The Exchange Club of Mobile will host the **Field of Valor**, a flag display honoring and memorializing Veterans who have served to Preserve our Freedom.

The event location is Battleship Memorial Park on the Causeway. The flags will fly October 25 – November 22, 2025 and a Dedication Ceremony will be held Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 2 p.m. in the Aircraft Pavilion.

The Field of Valor will display 300, 3' x 5' American flags in perfect columns and rows. Flags will display a tag with information on a veteran (name, rank, hometown, branch of service and dates of service) as provided by sponsors. A sponsor may purchase a flag at cost of \$15.00, and the flag will either be given to the sponsor after the event or can be donated to the Exchange Club for future use.



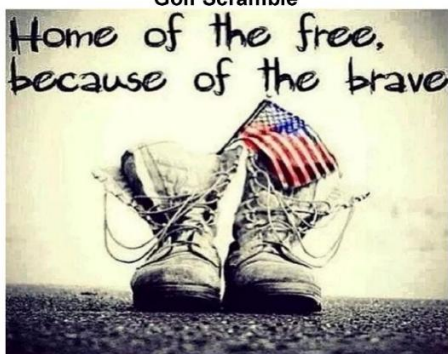
The Exchange Club of Mobile

###

2nd Annual CCMGA

Tee up for the Troops

Golf Scramble



Craft Farms Golf Resort - Cotton Creek Course

3840 Cotton Creek Circle, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542

Veteran's Day November 11th, 2025 - 9AM Shotgun Start

\$500 per team entry fee

Breakfast and Lunch Included



Tournament proceeds support:

Warrior Legacy Ranch*

Men's and Women's Team Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place - Long Drive, Closest to Pin and Door Prizes

Contact for reservations and information:

Keith Robertson, b.Keith.robertson@gmail.com Ph: 256.652.4875

Faye Robertson, faye.J.Robertson@icloud.com Ph: 334.507.9334

* 501 (3) (c) EIN 93-3996612

The Warrior Legacy Ranch is located on 20 acres in beautiful Baldwin County, AL, and will accommodate up to 40 veterans at a time. It features handicap-accessible amenities, communal spaces designed for group sharing sessions, and on-site recreation. Specifically, the proceeds from the tournament will help fund the completion of the building at Warrior Legacy Ranch—donations are tax-deductible.

The building will offer amenities for disabled veterans, a communal living area, a common dining area for 40 people, a fully equipped kitchen, 12 rooms, and one bunk room with 32 beds, as well as a swimming pool, outdoor seating, and other recreational areas.



Miles for Heroes 5K

November 1, 2025

Register/Donate Today

Daphne City Hall
1705 Main St
Daphne, AL 36526



Suicide affects us all.

Every day, we lose someone to suicide.

*They are **our neighbors, our heroes, our family.***

Join us. Support the mission. Help save lives.

IGY6-GULF COAST aims to raise \$8,000 through this event. These funds will directly support Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for police departments throughout Baldwin County, giving local officers the skills needed to effectively respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises. We believe that investing in this training will not only save lives but also enhance the trust and care between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

We would be honored to have your partnership in this mission. Here are three simple ways you and your city can get involved:

- **Register or walk with us in the 5K:**
<https://givebutter.com/milesforheroes>
- **Make a donation to IGY6 Gulf Coast:**
<https://givebutter.com/igy6-gulfoast>
- **Become a sponsor of the event:**
<https://givebutter.com/milesforheroes2025sponsors>

###



For a booth at the Festival on November 7-9 contact SAVC – 251-605-1290.

COMING SOON:

Book Signing with Daniel Gutierrez and
Andrea Gutierrez



Women Wrongfully Convicted of Murders a gripping true crime narrative that sheds light on the hidden injustices faced by women accused of the most serious of crimes. With compassion and precision, authors Daniel and Andrea Gutierrez uncover the deeply personal stories of women who were imprisoned for murders they did not commit. These are not rare tragedies-they are recurring failures of a justice system in desperate need of reform.

Daniel Gutierrez

Dan is a retired criminal justice and sociology college teacher who retired from Penn State in 2022 as an assistant professor. He spent 34 years teaching college classes at numerous colleges and universities across the United States, written and published numerous articles in academic journals, and presented research at dozens of criminal justice conferences throughout the United States.

Andrea Gutierrez

Andrea is a retired assistant professor of social work at Luzerne County Community College in Pennsylvania where she taught for 12 years and remains an adjunct professor. She has coauthored several articles and has presented research at numerous conferences throughout the United States. In addition, Andrea spent more than twenty years practicing social work specializing in Trauma.

Holiday/Observance/Event	Date
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Entire Month of October
Yom Kippur	October 1 – October 2, 2025
Ms. Veteran America Pageant	October 12
Columbus Day	October 13
U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday	October 13
Day of the Deployed	October 26
Navy Day	October 27
Halloween	October 31

CONTACT INFORMATION

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American Legion District 33 Auxiliary President Sharon Bunton and Sissy Cunningham from Alabama Hospice Care host a hot dog luncheon for the Mobile VA Clinic on the first Tuesday of every month.

Sharon: sharonbunton@yahoo.com

Sissy: sissycunningham69@gmail.com

Creola Veterans Park - Visit the new veterans park
mbrown@cityofcreola.org

Fleet & Family Support Center

Assisting Retirees, Spouses, and Families

Building 625, 151 Ellyson Ave

NAS Pensacola, FL 32508 (850-452-5622)

Gentiva Hospice

Monthly Vet Connect Meeting at Springhill College Golf Course, & Gentiva Hospice Ceremony, honoring deceased spouses of veterans.

Holly.Jordan@gentivahs.com

jwoodwardbarnett@gentivahs.com

Memorial Day Flag Relay: Endel Lee Memorial Day - 'Remember to Remember' flag relay – 251-649-1430
endellee@yahoo.com

MOPH Chapter 2206, Andrew Del Gaudio
godfatherdel@hotmail.com

One on One Senior Care

Independent Sitters / CAN's

Available 24/7

independentcare@yahoo.com

251-209-0151 / 251-767-2963

QOV Baldwin County – 251-459-3282
lmipp143@bellsouth.net

QOV Mobile Joyce Reed 251-634-0256
lsubookworm@hotmail.com

RH HomeCare & Transport Services LLC
rhhomeworktransportservicesllc@gmail.com

Right at Home Caregivers

In home Care & Assistance

Gina Shoub: gina@rahsouth.com

251-459-2556

SACMOAA Phil Gabriel - contactdxd@aol.com

Vets Recover, Chaplain Lloyd Austin

info@vetsrecover.org 251- 405-3677

Website: vetsrecover.org

Vietnam Veterans of America - Meeting
4th Tuesday at Café Acadiana in Silverhill, AL
arleenronnie1967@gmail.com

SAVC, CAVC, NAVFOC, AND RRVC THE VETERANS VOICE VETERANS UNITE

In addition to the South Alabama Veterans Council, which covers seven counties in southern Alabama, three similar groups are currently active elsewhere in the state: the Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) in Birmingham, the North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC), and the River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) in and near Montgomery, AL. SAVC, CAVC, NAVFOC, and RRVC can collaborate to advocate for the state's large veteran community.



South Alabama Veterans Council

www/savc.info



Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) www.facebook.com/AlabamaCAVC/

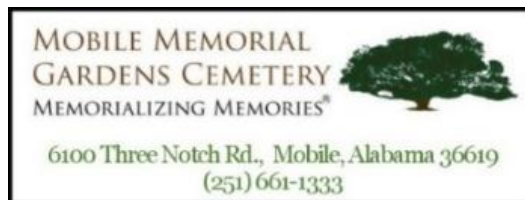


North Alabama Veterans & Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) www.navfoc.com



River Region Veterans Coalition – Central Alabama in and near Montgomery, AL RRVC www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574462792355
RRVC is a non-profit/apolitical coalition of public and private sector organizations that serve military veterans in the River Region of central Alabama.

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sunpaws
pet services



GARDBERG & KEMMERLY
Attorneys at Law



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Publix®

The bakery department provides SAVC pastries at SAVC meetings, 9124 Cottage Hill Rd. Mobile, AL



Col. Frank Barrow, USA (Ret), President SAVC presented a certificate of appreciation and SAVC coin for Kandace Breland at Publix for their continued support of our organization. Accepting the award on her behalf is Sydney Grant, manager at Publix!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 199 FORMER RANK CHALLENGE

Are you proud of your service and the accomplishments you've made? Announcing our newest Phase 1 Building Fund Raiser! The American Legion Eastern Shore Post 199 **"Former-Rank Challenge"** fundraising effort. **Help Us Help Ourselves!** We challenge every member Post 199 to accept the challenge reflected in the chart below. The challenge is open to SAL/AUX members as well as the public, so reach out to your old Battle Buddies! Tell your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers! This will be a friendly competition between the Commissioned Officers and the combined forces of the Warrant Officers and Enlisted ranks. The winning group will receive a permanently displayed award in the Phase-1 Building for all to see, recognizing the group that raised the most in this fundraising challenge. Don't miss out!

If every member of Post 199 accepted this challenge, we would far outpace our current goal of \$35,000. Some estimates indicate we could raise three times that amount! This accomplishment will not only help us match (and potentially double-match) our anonymous donor's \$75,000 gift, but it will also send a loud and clear message of our strong commitment to restoring our vitality and strengthening our mission to serve our Veteran community. Additionally, if you step up your gift to \$500, you will be automatically enrolled in our limited "Plank Owner's" mug program (100 mugs limit). The mugs will be numbered and will have your name or call sign printed on it. Please act today....

You can accept this challenge by submitting your donation in the following ways:

- Through our GoFundMe page at:
<https://gofund.me/be002807>
Please put your former rank (or your family member's rank in the case of SALS or AUX) after your last name so we can track this fundraiser.
- Mail your check to our Post at: PO Box 473, Fairhope, AL 36533.
Please put your former rank (or your family member's rank in the case of SALS or AUX) in the memo line of your check so we can track this fundraiser.
- Bring your donation to our next member meeting.

Minimum Rank-Based Donations:

O1 = \$100	WO1 = \$100	E1 = \$20
O2 = \$200	WO2 = \$200	E2 = \$40
O3 = \$300	WO3 = \$300	E3 = \$60
O4 = \$400	WO4 = \$400	E4 = \$80
O5 = \$500	WO5 = \$500	E5 = \$100
O6 = \$600		E6 = \$120
O7 = \$1000		E7 = \$150
O8 = \$2000		E8 = \$200
O9 = \$3000		E9 = \$300
O10 = \$4000		



SAVC Minutes September 16tes , 2025

Pastries provided by Publix West Mobile

1. Welcome and Call to Order: President, Frank Barrow, LTC USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., with 57 in attendance. The location was American Legion Post 88.

2. Opening Prayer & Pledge: Chaplain Lloyd Michael Austin, offered the opening prayer.

3. Pledge: Neil Bruyn, USAF, Veteran led the pledge.

4. Welcome and introduction of new attendees: Frank Barrow welcomed new attendees and introduced the guest speaker, Col Mark Valentine.

5. Newsletter & Minutes: Fran Barber-Bruyn, Secretary - The August meeting minutes were included in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as read. Thanks to Judy and Sophie for breakfast.

John Joe Dec special presentation to CDR Pete Riehm and ADML Kent Davis, USCG, rescuing the Navy since 1790.

6. Treasury: Grant presentations included a check for \$500.00 presented to Bennet Brighma, USA student, David Blair, Director, Office of Military Services, for "Emergency Relief Fund". P L Wilson presented SAVC a donation from the Jeep & Car show. James Burks, USN Veteran, donated a handmade plaque for the SAVC lectern. Table available for Veterans Day Luncheon.

7. Introduction of Guest Speaker: Frank Barrow introduced Colonel (Ret) William Mark Valentine, fighter Pilot.

8. Navy & Veterans News: Pete Riehm, Parade registration in the mail, deadline Oct 15. USNS Mercy tours in November. Oct 13, NAVY 250th Birthday, Sunday, October 12, on Battleship. MGySgt USMC is also celebrating the 250th on Nov 8th, after the parade, attending the luncheon at Ft Whiting. Phil Quigley reported on the Alabama Pecan Festival, November 7-9, Tillmans Corner, call if interested in a booth.

9. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: The AL POW/MIA event is scheduled for September 20 in Montgomery; American Legion Riders will hold a POW/MIA ceremony at all American Legion posts in Alabama before the POW/MIA Ceremony in Montgomery.

10. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation: Dir Joe Buschell, 4653 internments, Oct 1, hiring an attendant robotic lawn mowers working.

11. USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park: Genavese Harris reported upcoming veterans events.

12. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs:

13. VMRT: Continuing to look for veterans.

14. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers: Last of Foxhole Fighters Dinner, MPM will assist, Guest Speaker CWO5 Averhart, Salute to PGR Dec 17.

15. Topics of Interest: SAVC will have a float in the parade. Bylaws, available on website. Encouraged everyone to take an active part in serving the council.

16. Good of the Order: The next meeting will be at Denton Drake American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL, on October 21, 2025.

17. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Fran Barber, Secretary