



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

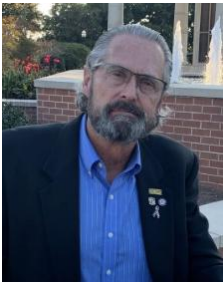
Lloyd Michael Austin
Chaplain
251-391-8176

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!

Hello Friends and Fellow Veterans! I hope all of you had a Happy Halloween with your children and grandchildren...I always enjoy having the little ghosts and goblins pay us a visit! This month is a busy one with Veterans Day activities taking priority for us in the next couple of weeks. I encourage all of you to join the parade in downtown Mobile on the 11th as well as the luncheon at Fort Whiting! That evening, be sure to stop by the Battleship Memorial Park for the Parade of Flags event, followed by the Patriotic Music performance by the Mobile Pops! It is a truly wonderful experience as we honor our nation's Veterans!

Our next meeting is scheduled for 18 November at American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Road. This will be the last meeting for 2025; we will resume in January 2026. Our guest speaker this month is Troy Carico, a well-known advocate for Veteran Causes in Alabama. He is a 100% service-connected disabled U.S. Army combat veteran and a highly decorated officer and thought leader. A frequent contributor to 1819 News-Alabama and regular guest on news talk shows and podcasts, he specializes in innovative strategies and scalable solutions for global security and critical infrastructure.

Finally, please pray that our elected officials in Washington, D.C. are able to reopen the government...as you know, our Coast Guard service members are feeling the pinch as they will not receive a paycheck this month. To be honest, I find it disgraceful that our leaders are unable to work together to ensure that those who ensure the safety of our nation suffer the consequences of poor governance. We can and must do better! In the meantime, be prepared

to assist us if we need to garnish resources to ensure our service members can put food on the table!
Robert "Frank" Barrow, LTC (US Army Retired)
President, South Alabama Veterans Council..



GREETINGS! It's Thanksgiving

Read Psalm 95:2: "Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Heavenly Father, we come before you humbly, with thanksgiving in our hearts and praises on our lips. Heavenly Father, you are so wonderful and amazing; there is no one like you. We stand in awe of the many works of your mighty hands. Day after day, you have been faithful, loving, and kind. We want to thank you. You have made a way when there seems to be no way. You have healed what seems to be unhealable. You have saved what seems to be unsavable and changed the unchangeable. So, we say thank you for life, health, and strength. Thank you for food, shelter, and clothing. Thank you for finances, jobs, and transportation. Thank you for our families, friends, and loved ones. Thank you for our country, the freedoms we enjoy, and the men and women who have served, as well as those who are still serving and protecting our nation. Father God Almighty, there are not enough words in the human language to express the heartfelt gratitude we feel toward You. So we say, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name, amen!

*Pastor Lloyd Michael Austin,
Chaplain, SAVC*



2025 Veterans Day Events

Tuesday November 11

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY | 7:00 AM
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Battleship Memorial Park

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE | 10:00 AM
Downtown Mobile, AL

VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON | 12:00 NOON
Fort Whiting Armory
1630 South Broad St., Mobile, AL

THE PARADE OF FLAGS | 3:00 PM
Battleship Memorial Park Honors Pavilion

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CONCERT | 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Battleship Memorial Park Honors Pavilion



SAVE THE DATE

There will be NO SAVC meeting in December.

January 20, 2026

The Waterfront Restaurant

1 Yacht Dr., Daphne, AL

Breakfast 9:00 am

NOVEMBER 18 MEETING

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

Meeting starts promptly at 8:30 a.m.

**Breakfast provided by
Love Me Always Church**



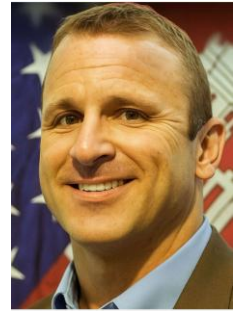
VETS RECOVER

**Lloyd Michael Austin
Lead Peer Support Specialist
Army Veteran**

**Austin will give a presentation on opioids and
the administration of Narcan.**

NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Troy Carico



Carico is the founder and director of Alabama (AL) VeterannatioN a 501 C/19 nonprofit organization that is an advocate for Alabama's Veteran community.

Troy Carico, a 100% service-connected disabled U.S. Army combat veteran, is a highly decorated officer and thought leader. A frequent contributor to 1819 News-Alabama and a regular guest on news talk shows and podcasts, he specializes in innovative strategies and scalable solutions for global security and critical infrastructure. Recently, Troy served as Deputy CIO and IT Contracts Branch Chief at the U.S. Mint, as well as Terminal Manager for UPS International Heavy Freight. From 2009 to 2011, he served as the G2 Chief of Intelligence and Security and the G3 Deputy of Plans and Operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Division, where he developed the acclaimed USACE TAD G2 Intelligence Fusion Center, with over 22 years of Army service, including roles as an infantry soldier (11B) and officer (11A) in counterintelligence (35E) and military intelligence (35D).

Troy served on numerous covert assignments as a civilian intelligence officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency (Great Skills) and with the elite Iraqi Survey Group (2003-2005). A native of Dayton, Ohio, Troy holds a B.S. in Political Science and Military Science from Ball State University and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Mississippi.

Now focused on veteran advocacy through Alabama Veteran Nation, Troy is rallying the state's 444,000 veterans into a unified political voice. His investigation into misused suicide prevention funds underscores the urgent need for veteran leadership in policy decisions.



South Alabama Veterans Council
VETERANS SPOTLIGHT
Ross Sykes
Chairman IGY6 Gulf Coast



Ross Sykes – Mortgage Broker, Veteran Advocate, and Community Leader

Ross is also the **Chairman of IGY6 Gulf Coast**, a non-profit organization focused on **suicide prevention and awareness for veterans, police officers, first responders**, and members of the local community. The organization's mission is to connect individuals with vital resources and ensure no one faces their struggles alone.

Ross Sykes is a local mortgage broker in Fairhope, Alabama, with **Homefront Lending, LLC**. Before entering the mortgage industry, Ross proudly served as a **Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force**, conducting **aeromedical evacuations** and later serving as the **Wireless Manager for U.S. Special Operations Command**.

Following his military service, Ross continued his commitment to public service as a **Special Agent** with the **Federal Investigative Services** branch of the federal government. Nearly eight years ago, he took a leap of faith and transitioned into the mortgage industry — a decision that allowed him to combine his passion for helping others with his dedication to integrity and service.

Ross is a recognized expert in **VA Home Loans** and is deeply committed to ensuring our nation's heroes receive the care and representation they deserve—well beyond the transaction itself. His unwavering advocacy for veterans drives his daily mission to provide **accurate and reliable guidance** to both homebuyers and homeowners.

As a respected business professional, Ross believes in leading with purpose and lifting others along the way. He serves as a **Board Member of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce** and is an **alumnus of Leadership Baldwin**. Through this network, he co-founded **Baldwin Up**, an initiative that empowers local 7th and 8th graders by introducing them to diverse career opportunities and inspiring future community leaders.

Currently, Ross is working to **introduce legislation** that would assist **disabled veterans with a 100% permanent and total disability rating**, ensuring property taxes are no longer used against them when applying for home loans — improving their access to housing and financial stability.

When he's not serving clients or the community, Ross enjoys **boating, fishing, and spending quality time with his family** along the beautiful Gulf Coast.



Frank Barrow, Ross Sykes, Steve Carey

SAVC presented a grant to IGY6 Gulf Coast to help them reach their goal of raising \$8,000 for Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for local police departments.

Every dollar contributes to training officers to respond to mental health crises with empathy, skill, and confidence — saving lives and protecting the community. Together, we can provide those who serve with the tools they need to make a lasting impact on the Gulf Coast.

When IGY6 reaches this year's goal:

- **3 departments** along the Gulf Coast will receive **funded Crisis Intervention Training**.
- Over **60 officers** will be trained in mental health awareness, communication, and de-escalation.
- Those officers will collectively respond to **10,000+ calls per year**, meaning lives will be changed — and saved — through this training.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Military Family Month

Nov. 10, 2025 – Marine Corps Birthday

Nov. 11, 2025 – Veterans Day – Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11 to honor military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with holidays in several countries, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which also fall on the anniversary of the end of World War.

Nov. 20, 2025 Thanksgiving Day



"Field of Valor"

The Exchange Club of Mobile and the Daphne High School JROTC Cadets put up 300 American Flags for their our "Field of Valor" to honor and memorialize our Veterans.

Flags are \$15 each...if you have a family member or friend who served in our US Military, please consider sponsoring them and purchase a flag in "Honor Of" or "Memory Of" from us. The flag will be given to the sponsor after the event or donated to the Exchange Club for future use in the Field of Valor.

Contact Annesia Miller: 251-463-7882

The Exchange Club of Mobile will march at the beginning of the Mobile Veterans Day Parade, handing out American Flags to parade-goers.



Warrior Legacy Ranch is proud to announce the return of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Wall of Remembrance to Baldwin County in honor of those who served and sacrificed in the Global War on Terrorism. @rwf.gwot.wall

The **GWOT Wall of Remembrance** is a place of remembrance and reflection. Each name represents courage, sacrifice, and service. Take a moment today to honor those who gave everything.

The **GWOT Wall of Remembrance** is still at **The Waterfront Daphne**. Take in the beautiful sunsets, pay your respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and enjoy a great dinner.

Thank you to the National Guard and Navy Recruiters for your help. We had a great escort across the county by @Loxley Police Department and @Daphne Police Department and the American Legion Riders and Patriot Guard.

As the day ends, remember: healing happens in community. Whether you're visiting the Wall or joining a ranch program, you are never alone. Reach out, connect, and share your story.

As the week progresses, take a moment to reflect on your own service or the service of someone you know. Every life dedicated to freedom matters.

Patrick Jump
President, WLR



. WLR Patrick Jump is seeking veterans' stories for "Service to Success."

MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART

MOPH CDR Chapter 2206 Bill Bergman presented a certificate of appreciation to ADML Kent Davis, USN (Ret), CEO of Vets Recover, from MOPH Wiregrass Memorial Chapter 2216, for his contributions to Purple Heart Day 2025. Robert Green, Commander of MOPH Wiregrass Memorial Chapter 2216, and Judge Dwayne Hartwick facilitated the delivery of the certificate.



Vets Recover (VR) is hosting a class on building an herb garden box for Veterans, First Responders, and their family members. VR will supply all the needed items to construct the boxes. VR will not supply the dirt or plants for the boxes. You must pre-register as space is limited.



Come and build a herb box with us on November 15th!



Vets Recover (VR) is hosting a class on building a garden herb box for Veterans, First Responders, and their family members. VR will supply all needed items to construct the boxes. VR will not supply the dirt or plants for the boxes. You must pre-register as space is limited.

Register here



Recovery isn't a setback. It's a powerful new beginning. At Vets Recover, we provide a safe, supportive environment for Veterans and service members to heal and grow together. You're not alone. Take that first step toward hope, strength, and a brighter future.

📞 Call us today: 251-405-3677



120K+

Active duty personnel
and war veterans of
post-9/11 conflicts
have **died by suicide.**

Sources: wefacethefight.org/#the-facts



WATCH LAST YEARS IRON RUCK VIDEO

operationironruck.com

Operation Iron Ruck (OIR) is an annual event hosted by the Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) and the University of Alabama Student Veterans of America (SVA) to raise awareness and funds for veteran suicide prevention. As the state of Alabama has one of the nation's highest veteran suicide rates, OIR seeks to increase the public's knowledge on this issue while uniting veterans with the community, funding charities, championing veteran suicide education and supporting local veteran organizations.

Operation Iron Ruck is a 151-mile ruck between the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa, AL and the Auburn University campus in Auburn, AL. The ruck ends at the stadium of the home team each year. For the safety of our participants, the route was chosen to reflect the quickest, safest, non-interstate path.

The three-day ruck can be a big time commitment, especially when it means being away from family on Thanksgiving. Each year during the ruck, they take a six-hour break to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together as a team. This year, Thanksgiving dinner will be held at Marbury High School in Deatsville, AL.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION IRON RUCK?

If you would like to be involved in this year's Operation Iron Ruck as a volunteer, please review the volunteer opportunities. They rely on volunteers to make Operation Iron Ruck possible.

operationironruck.com/get-involved/



MOBILE BAY AREA VETERANS COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Steve Carey, Col USAF (Ret)

Once again, the Veterans Day National Committee designated Mobile, AL, as a Regional Site for the observance of Veterans Day.

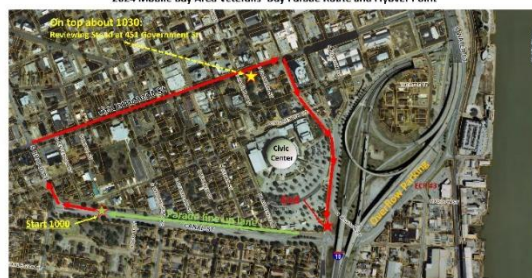


The Veterans Day Parade in Mobile, AL starts at 10:00 a.m.

We will line up all units in simple numerical order, heading west on Canal Street. Any vehicles participating in the parade shall enter Canal Street from Claiborne Street, heading west. Walking participants should park in the area under I-10, just east of Claiborne Street, or be dropped off on the eastbound lane of Canal Street, opposite the parade lineup area, which is located on the westbound lane of Canal Street. Band and JROTC buses should park in the parking lot under I-10, entering from Canal Street.

PARADE ROUTE

2024 Mobile Bay Area Veterans' Day Parade Route and Flyover Point



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Association honored Justine Wilson, the MCPSS Middle School Teacher of the Year, with an awards presentation at Grand Bay Middle School. Col. Steve Carey, President of the Air Force Association, gave Ms. Wilson a certificate and a monetary donation from the association. Col. Carey also answered students' questions about his service and about his father's Air Force missions during World War II.





Citronelle Conversion Project

Infinite Opportunities Phase II is HERE!

We're expanding our Citronelle Conversion Project, Infinite Living, with the addition of two new buildings purchased in September 2025.

Coming Soon:

Senior Day Room – A safe, welcoming space for our elders. 2nd Food Pantry

EXCLUSIVE TO INFINITE OPPORTUNITIES



7916 Bud Odum Road
Citronelle, AL 36522

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM



Infinite Opportunities offers a diverse range of Independent Living housing options tailored to meet the needs of:

- Veterans
- Seniors
- People facing homelessness or displacement.
- Returning citizens (ex-offenders)
- Those seeking sober living environments
- Low-income individuals and families.

We are committed to providing safe, stable, and supportive housing that fosters dignity, independence, and long-term well-being.



Our Citronelle location is a thoughtfully converted hotel, now offering one-room studio apartments designed for individuals, couples, and small families. We provide a safe, secure, and welcoming environment with no occupancy time limits – where residents can truly feel at home. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in every detail: from clean, healthy living spaces to access to health and wellness resources, all-inclusive accommodations, and a deep dedication to client safety and dignity.

FEATURES:

- One Room studio - All Inclusive
- Fully Furnished
- All Utilities
- Washer/Dryer Access
- Food Biweekly to help supplement Grocery Budget
- High Speed Internet & Security
- Central AC/Heat
- Schedule Transportation Routes
- Day Room Activities

ASK ABOUT OUR SHARED LIVING OPPORTUNITIES!

WE ACCEPT PRIVATE PAY, PAYEE SERVICES, VA/SSI/SSDI, AND FUNDING PROGRAMS.

CONTACT US FOR RATES AND AVAILABILITY.

PHONE: 251-662-9812 OR 251-298-7237
EMAIL: INFO@INFINITEOPP.ORG



TALK TO US AT WWW.INFINITEOPP.ORG



SAVC presented a grant to Ring of Hope, founder Margaret Coley. Ring of Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to reaching and uplifting individuals in need from crib to chair, focusing on children, vulnerable veterans, and senior adults.

Margaret is also deeply involved in her community through Ring of Hope. She serves as VP of Education on the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission. She served as a director for Honor Flight South Alabama and is on the board of the Alabama State Veterans Cemetery.



SAVC presented a grant to Tony Tolbert, treasurer, Battlefield to Backwoods. At Battlefield to Backwoods Veteran Outdoors, our vision is to create a world where every veteran and first responder has the opportunity to heal and thrive, supported by a strong community of peers and the transformative power of nature, leading to a significant reduction in veteran and first responder suicides. – Tony Tolbert

AMERICAN LEGION POST 199 FAIRHOPE GRAND OPENING



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Eastern Shore Post 199 American Legion
Three-Day Celebration Honoring Veterans, Families,
and Community!

Location: 700 South Mobile Street, Fairhope,
Alabama

November 14–16, 2025

DAY 1 – GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

Friday, November 14 • 2:00 PM

Ribbon Cutting & Dedication Ceremony

Featuring Local Dignitaries, Veterans, and
Community Leaders

Refreshments & Tours of the New Post Home

Live Music

*Fundraising auction

DAY 2 – COMMUNITY & FAMILY DAY

Saturday, November 15 • 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

*Kids' Activities • Live Music • Food *Family Fun for
All Ages

*Fundraising auction

DAY 3 – GRAND CONCERT & CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 16 • 5:00 PM

Live Music • Food • Fellowship

*Fundraising auction

FAIRHOPE VETERANS DAY PARADE

The City of Fairhope will honor our military veterans with the annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8th, beginning at 10 a.m. from the Fairhope Civic Center. The parade will feature local veterans' organizations, military vehicles, the Fairhope High School Band, and the Daphne High School ROTC.

Leading this year's procession will be Fairhope's 2025 Veteran of the Year. Before the parade, a light breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. in the Civic Center lobby for all veterans and parade participants.

MEDAL OF HONOR PARK – Mobile, AL

Chaplain Kyle Beshears, USN, is working to get a flag placed at Medal of Honor Park, Mobile, in honor of John New, PFC USMC. The park first opened in 1996.

Medal of Honor Park, located at 1711 Hillcrest Rd in Mobile, is a vibrant and expansive recreational area that serves as both a community hub and a living memorial. Spanning 133.5 acres, the park offers a diverse array of amenities and activities, making it a popular destination for both locals and visitors.

The park's transformation from Cottage Hill Park to Medal of Honor Park in August 2001 was a significant event, **honoring the extraordinary bravery of Private First-Class John D. New**, a Mobile native who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** during World War II.

On September 25, 1944, while serving on Peleliu Island, he sacrificed his life to save his fellow Marines. When a Japanese soldier threw a grenade into their observation post, New unhesitatingly threw himself upon the explosive, absorbing the full impact and saving the lives of two observers. His valor earned him the nation's highest military honor, and the renaming of the park serves as a lasting tribute to his sacrifice and the values of courage, duty, and selfless service.

JOHN DURY NEW, PFC USMC

Rank: Private First Class

Conflict/Era: World War II

Unit/Command:

2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment,
1st Marine Division

Military Service Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Medal of Honor Action Date: September 25, 1944

Medal of Honor Action Place: Peleliu Island, Palau Islands

Accredited To: Alabama

Awarded Posthumously: Yes

Presentation Date & Details: June 23, 1945

Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, Presented By
Rear Adm. C.A. Pownall To His Father

Born: August 12, 1924, Mobile, Mobile County,
Alabama, United States

Died: September 25, 1944, Peleliu Island, Palau Islands

Buried: Mobile National Cemetery (Mh) (7-2147),
Mobile, Alabama, United States



Four weeks to fewer symptoms

At our October meeting, Caleb Butler reported on FreSpira, a device for people suffering from PTSD.

caleb.butler@freespira.com

Imagine what your life would look like without panic attacks or PTSD symptoms. You could get there faster than you think with Freespira. Reduce or stop symptoms in just 28 days. There's no medication, and no need to visit a doctor or therapist. You complete the treatment right at home with a tablet, sensor, and custom app.

Many people, including veterans with VA benefits, can get Freespira through their health insurance or employer. Others view the one-time investment as a cost-effective alternative to ongoing copays without real relief. Talk to one of our expert advisors for a risk-free look at your options.



Open to all veterans in Baldwin Co. AL and Escambia Co. FL

Visual Arts:

Sculpture | Clay | Mixed Media | Pencil/Graphite
Photography | Digital Enhanced Media
Wood | Metal | Painting (acrylic, oil/pastel, watercolor)

Language Arts: Poetry

Best of Show-\$500 | Prizes total \$2,500



Apply at: **More info at:** CoastalArtsCenter.com
251-981-ARTS (2787)

- Gallery Exhibit of winning participants **Nov. 10- 21, 2025**
- Artist Reception **Nov. 13, 2025** at the Coastal Arts Center



Presented by:



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW FAIR

West Regional Library • 5555 Grelot Rd
November 14, 2025 • 9am – 4pm

A chance for our veterans to tell their story so it can be saved for future generations.
To set up an appointment time
Contact Congressman Barry Moore's office at
251-264-6710
Complimentary snacks and coffee provided

VETERANS ENDOWMENT FUND CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

JOIN US FOR THE INAUGURAL VETERANS ENDOWMENT FUND INVITATIONAL
A PREMIER GOLF TOURNAMENT SUPPORTING VETS RECOVER

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

TITLE SPONSOR \$25,000

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7am: Registration Opens
Magnolia Grove

9am: Shotgun Start
Magnolia Grove

2pm: Prizes
Magnolia Grove

TITLE SPONSOR \$12,500

PRESENTING PARTNER \$10,000

OTHER REGISTRATION OPTIONS

2nd Annual CCMGA Tee up for the Troops Golf Scramble

Home of the free, because of the brave

Craft Farms Golf Resort - Cotton Creek Course

3840 Cotton Creek Circle, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542
Veteran's Day November 11th, 2025 - 9AM Shotgun Start
\$600 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
Contacts for reservations and information:
Keith Roberson, k.roberson@gmail.com Ph: 256.652.4875
Faye Roberson, faye.roberson@icloud.com Ph: 334.507.9334

* 501 (3) (c) EIN 93-3999612

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](http://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.



PP HOSPITALITY GROUP

Publix®

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





★ **KEEP MOVING FORWARD** ★

MOBILE
NATIONAL
CEMETERY
*December 13,
2025*



Let us honor the brave men and women who served our country.
Help show your gratitude and appreciation by sponsoring a wreath to be placed the second Saturday in December. The deadline to sponsor wreaths for this year is December 1st.

We are offering the following sponsorship tiers. Sponsors who reach Platinum or Diamond level will have the option to have a company logo in the program.

Bronze - 5 wreaths	Platinum - 50 wreaths
Silver - 10 wreaths	Diamond - 100 wreaths
Gold - 25 wreaths	

SAVC Minutes October 21, 2025

Pastries provided by Publix West Mobile, McFarland, and Cottage Hill

1. Welcome and Call to Order: President Frank Barrow, LTC USA (Ret), called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., with 66 in attendance. The location was American Legion Post 88.

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

3. Pledge: Col Pat Downing, VP.

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 September meeting minutes were included in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as read. Thanks to Judy and Sophie for breakfast.

6. Treasurer's Report: Grant presentations included IGY6 Gulf Coast, Ring of Hope, Infinite Opportunities, and Battlefields to Backwoods. Col Barrow presented a SAVC challenge coin to CDR Post 88 Gary Hensley. Gary provided post 88 challenge coins to all in attendance. Pass the hat.

7. Introduction of Guest Speaker:

Frank Barrow introduced Tony Tolbert, treasurer of Battlefield to Backwoods.

MOPH Chapter 2206 Bill Bergman presented a certificate of appreciation to ADML Kent Davis from MOPH Wiregrass Memorial Chapter 2216 for his contributions to Purple Heart Day 2025. Robert Green, Commander of MOPH Wiregrass Memorial Chapter 2216. MOPH Chapter 2216

Judge Dwayne Hartwick facilitated the delivery of the certificate.

n8. Navy & Veteran News , Pete Rieehm: Reported on parade,

9. Current Veterans Activities and AL News: Jim Jeffries is out. Keep him in your prayers.

10. AL Veterans Cemetery Foundation: Col Downing reported on the Cemetery.

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

12. Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs – Report on ADVA 80th birthday...Robert Davidson, Fran, and Neil Bruyn attended the luncheon.

13. VMRT: Fran Reported of cleanup efforts by Keep Mobile Beautiful, continuing to look for veterans.

14. J Gary Cooper MPM Chapter 33: Cynthia Huse reported on chapter events, name change, upcoming 250th birthday ball, Marine Corps League. House is now the VP of the local chapter. Reported on Veterans Day Luncheon.

15. Alabama Chapter 92nd Buffalo Soldiers: Reported on Dec 17 Dinner, Guest Speaker CWO Averheart, Salute to PGR

16. Topics of Interest: ADML Davis, recently appointed CEO, reported on Vets Recover. Patrick Jump from Warrior Legacy Ranch reported on the GWOT display at the Waterfront Restaurant. Col. Barrow reported on the passing of Elbert Wingfiend's wife. A special lunch is scheduled for Elbert on November 8 at his son's restaurant. USCG John Joe Dec reported on activities. Ross Sykes, IGY6 Chairman, reported on a bill that would exempt veterans who are 100% disabled from property taxes. Post 88 asks everyone to remember their Sgt at Arms, Paul, who was recently killed in a motorcycle accident. Caleb Butler reported on FreSpira, a device for people suffering from PTSD. The Fairhope Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for Nov 8, along with a Gumbo Contest. The grand opening of the new building at Post 199 will be held Nov 14-16. WLR Patrick Jump is seeking veterans' stories for "Service to Success." Annesia reported on the Field of Valor. RDML Lee introduced Chaplain Kyle Beshears, who is working to get a flag placed at Medal of Honor Park in honor of John New. Brandon McFarland, Devoted, reported changes in Medicare. Turkeys are being given away at Vets Recover. Phil Quigley reported on the Alabama Pecan Festival, November 7-9, Tillmans Corner, call if interested in a booth.

The Pecan Festival offers a no-cost setup for VSO tents. The Iron Ruck and Vets Recover Golf Tournament is scheduled. Cynthia House reported that Scarboro Middle School band students will hold a Veterans Day assembly for veterans on Nov 7 at 9 am

17. Good of the Order: The next meeting will be held at Denton Drake American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Rd, Mobile, AL, on November 18.

18. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.
Fran Barber, Secretary.